Trade and Industry

News from the Departments of Industry Trade Prices & Consumer Protection

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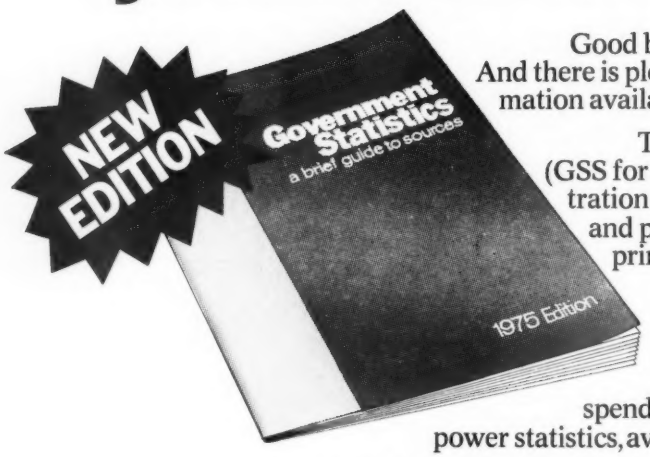

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Trade and Industry

20 February 1975

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

News from the Departments of Industry Trade Prices & Consumer Protection

Trade and Industry – the official news magazine of the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection – circulates widely among management in industry and commerce. Plans are in hand for not only a quicker but also a more extensive news coverage.
This is the last week that *Trade and Industry* will be published on a Thursday. From next week, we switch to a Friday and this coupled with a faster production schedule, will bring readers more news more quickly.

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Now on Fridays

From next week *Trade and Industry* will be published on a Friday. This change, coupled with a faster production schedule, will enable us to bring readers more news more quickly.

Home News

Eric Heffer announces new advance factory programme 414
380 jobs for Ebbw Vale area 414
Time limits for applications for investment grant 415
Fluctuations in the waste paper market 416
Telex for Design Council 417
Post Office auditors reappointed 417
Terrorism in the air 417
Public investigation into stranding of mfv *Wyre Majestic* 418
Light dues 418
British shipping industry – new COI booklet 418
Food values consultant appointed by DPCP 418
Proposed newspaper merger referred to Monopolies Commission 419
Clearance of merger proposals 419
New appointment to Monopolies and Mergers Commission 419
Firework accidents fall 419
Bread prices rise 419
Safety mark for BSI 420
Public sector standards for textiles 420
Price Commission interventions during January 421

Technology News

Chief Scientist addresses Royal Society on role of technology 424
Review of sea pollution clearance measures 424
Underwater surveys by CONSUB 425
New linear accelerator for Harwell 425

Parliament

426

Publications

434

British Overseas Trade Board

BOTB News

Rhone-Alpes: a growing market for heavy machinery and machine tools 435

Exhibitions and Fairs

Britain on crest of wave at Paris boat show 438
Antiquarian event is well booked up 438
Hanover bulletin 438
British pavilions being considered for Plovdiv . . . 439
. . . and Bucharest 439
Products of North display for London 439
Hardware and houseware exhibitions in Cologne 439
The Head of State visits Ghana fair 440
Mr. Pickwick seen at NY toy fair 440
Marconi exhibits in Moscow 440

Export Business

442

Trade Information

Removal of export control on oil and certain liquefied petroleum gases 444
Seminar on Mexico 444
ECGD general purpose lines of credit 445
Notices to importers:
No. 1479: Arrangements for importation of jute goods 446
Application for temporary exemption from import duty 446
Another line of credit for Swedish shipyard 446
£1 million line of credit for France 447
Business visits to Mauritius 447
Hints to business men booklets 447
Go-ahead for LACES exports 447
Birmingham seminar on South Korea growth market 447

Tariff and Trade Notices

Argentina 455, Australia 452, Belgium 448, Benelux 448, Chile 454, France 448, Greece 450, Guatemala 455, Iceland 448, Indonesia 454, Israel 450, Iran 450, Mauritius 451, Mozambique 450, Nicaragua 454, Portugal 449, Spain 449, South Africa 450, Tanzania 450, Trinidad and Tobago 454, United States 454, Uruguay 455

European Community

Generalised Tariff Preference Scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties 456
Tariff quotas 1975 – exhaustions 456

New EC Legislation

Common Agricultural Policy. Rules of competition. Italian import deposit scheme. Customs duties 457

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators 459
Index of retail prices for January 460
Retail sales – provisional estimates for January 460
Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland 460
Index of industrial production in December 1974 461
Current account of the UK balance of payments for January 462
Wholesale price indices in January 470
Acquisitions and mergers in the fourth quarter of 1974 474
Engineering industries sales and orders (SIC Orders, VII, VIII and IX) 477
Regional selective assistance 479
Turnover of the motor trades in fourth quarter of 1974 479
Steel consumption and stocks in the fourth quarter of 1974 481
The Bankruptcy Acts, 1914 and 1926 482
Business Monitor 482
Registrations of British, Community and foreign films 482
Index to statistics 483

Government Sales

484

Home News

Eric Heffer announces new advance factory programme

Eric Heffer, (third from right) looks around the site for the advance factory he announced would be built on the White Lund industrial estate, Lancaster. With him (left to right) are Councillor Stewart Taylor, Alfred Hall-Davis, MP for Morecambe and Lonsdale, Councillor Abbott Bryning; Councillor J. Dawson; Mrs. Elaine Kellett-Bowman, MP for Lancaster; and Donald Waddell, Lancaster chief executive.

A further round of 24 advance factories to cost £3.25 million was announced on 14 February by Eric Heffer, Minister of State for Industry. The new programme will complete the Department's plans to provide special aid to the construction industry.

In answer to a Parliamentary Question Mr Heffer said:

'I am pleased to announce the following new programme which will provide 24 factories at an estimated cost of £3¼ million. Part of the programme takes up the balance of the special allocation to provide early help to the construction industry announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 11 September 1974 and most of the locations will therefore be on land we already own or will shortly purchase. I also have to announce that the Department is taking over from the Property Services Agency a 21 acre site at Gillmoss, Liverpool, which we plan to redevelop with modern factories.

List of factories:

	sq. feet
Scotland	
Queenslie (Glasgow)	25,000
Lochlands (Falkirk)	20,000
Shotts	20,000
Edinburgh*	15,000
	80,000
Wales	
Fishguard (terrace units)	2 × 5,000
Portmadoc	10,000
Gaerwen	10,000
Ynyscedwyn (terrace units)	2 × 5,000
	40,000
Northern Region	
Sunderland (Leechmere)	2 × 15,000
Tanfield Lea	25,000
Tynemouth	15,000
	70,000
North West	
Knowsley (terrace units)	15,000
Lancaster	15,000
Burnley	15,000
	45,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Doncaster	2 × 15,000
	30,000
East Midlands	
Chesterfield	15,000
Clay Cross	15,000
	30,000
South West	
Pennryn	10,000
Plymouth	10,000
Newquay	10,000
	30,000
Grand Total	325,000

* Increase in size of factory already announced.

Note

This programme is designed to take up to the extent of £2 million, the balance of the Department's allocation of funds which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 11 September 1974 was to be provided to aid employment in the construction industry. The factories now announced therefore supplement the factory programme which Mr. Heffer gave details of on 14 November 1974. As with that programme much of the work can be scheduled for an early start where land is already owned by the Department. In some locations land acquisition has to be completed before work can proceed.

The Government is also continuing with its normal programme to carry forward its regional employment policies by the provision of new factories in the Assisted Areas. Of the sum now allocated about £1¼ million is planned to be spent in the financial year beginning 1 April 1976 as part of its normal rolling forward of the programme. The factories will be built for the Department by the English, Scottish and Welsh Industrial Estates Corporations who act as agents for the Department in factory building and estate management. Factories are available for purchase or to rent. Inquiries may be made to the Department of Industry's Regional Offices.

380 jobs for Ebbw Vale area

John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, has announced new factory projects that will bring some 380 additional jobs to the Ebbw Vale travel-to-work area. Mr. Morris was speaking to a meeting at Ebbw Vale of the Blaenau Gwent Borough Council to discuss the effect of the Steel Review on that area.

Mr. Morris said that three firms had either been allocated or were to expand existing factories in the area. A Department of

Industry advance factory has been allocated to Engineering Products Ltd. of London. It should be ready for occupation later this year, and will employ about 100 people (85 of them males).

Steel Case Co. Ltd., who form part of the Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies group are to expand production at their existing factory at Highfield Works, Tredegar. The project, which is expected to be completed by 1977, is expected to provide for 30 new jobs (28 of them for men).

Control Data Ltd., of Brynmawr, who manufacture disc packs and similar products for the computer industry, have now decided to expand into the field of magnetic computer tape manufacture. This should lead to an increase in the present workforce from about 150 to a total of about 400, two-thirds of them male.

Mr. Morris said: 'These new developments are particularly welcome at this present time in that they will provide much needed jobs in the Ebbw Vale area. This is a clear indication of the priority which the Government is giving to increasing the job opportunities in this extremely sensitive area and I am confident that they represent the first of many which will be made available in the coming months'.

Mr. Morris has also announced that a new factory on the Prince of Wales Trading Estate, Abercarn has been acquired by Production Machines Ltd., who design and manufacture special purpose machines and equipment used by a variety of industries as diverse as food preparation and telecommunications. The factory is expected to provide employment for 20 men.

Time limits for applications for investment grant. Investment Grants Termination (No. 5) Order 1975

Section 1(6) of the Investment and Building Grants Act 1971, which received the Royal Assent on 27 July 1971, empowers the Secretary of State for Industry to specify by Order dates by which applications for investment grants must be made and to issue directions as to the form of such applications, the particulars they must contain and the documents which must accompany them. The act precludes the payment of grant on applications not complying, or in the opinion of the Secretary of State not substantially complying, with any relevant direction.

The Investment Grants Termination (No. 5) Order 1975 which was made on 15 January 1975 came into operation on 17 February. This Order specifies further dates before which applications for investment grant in respect of expenditure incurred during previous periods must be made to the Department of Industry. Copies of the Order are available from HMSO price 4p (7½p including postage).

The dates and periods in question are as follows:

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 April 1974-30 June 1974	1 January 1976
1 July 1974-30 September 1974	1 April 1976
1 October 1974-31 December 1974	1 July 1976
1 January 1975-31 March 1975	1 October 1976

The terms of the latest direction made in accordance with the provisions of the 1971 Act referred to in paragraph 1 above are contained in full in the Appendix to this notice.

It should be noted that before any grant is made in relation to expenditure incurred after 26 October 1970 the Department will require the application to be supported by forms IG/32 (or IG/33 in the case of ships) and the relevant evidence of contract.

Notes

The then Minister for Industry announced on 12 February 1971 in reply to a question in the House of Commons his intention to set these time limits. Industry will be given full notice both of the making of any further Order and of any reduction in the interval of 18 months between the period in which expenditure is incurred and the final date for making application referred to in the last line of the table above.

Full information to assist applicants in completing the forms prescribed in the direction is

Prize winning photograph of a Lansing Bagnall truck at the ASV aluminium plant at Sundalsora, Norway. The photograph, by Rodney Clarke, has won the colour category of the Financial Times industrial photography awards. The industrial photographer of the year went to Don Fraser for his panel of four pictures taken for Monsanto Chemicals, Tullis Russell & Co., Thorn Electronic Equipment, and Air Products and Chemicals.

contained in the booklet 'Investment Grants: a Guide for Industry' and in explanatory notes issued with each form. Copies of the forms, explanatory notes and the booklet may be obtained from the Regional Development Grants Offices and the Investment Grants Office at Southend.

The addresses and telephone numbers of these offices are as follows:

For plant and machinery forms:

The Department of Industry,
Regional Development Grants Office,
Queensway House
West Precinct
Town Centre
Billingham
Teeside, TS23 2NF
Tel. No: (0642) 553671
Telex 58608

St. Peter's House
Stanley Precinct
Bootle
Lancashire L20 3LZ
Tel No: 051-922 4030
Telex 627162

24-26 Newport Road
Cardiff CF2 1SY
Tel. No: (0222) 42611
Telex 49538

Magnet House
Waterloo Street
Glasgow G2 7BT
Tel No: 041-221 9833
Telex 77611

and for forms for ships, hovercraft and computers:

Department of Industry
Investment Grants Office,
Coleman House,
Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea SS2 6DU
Tel. No: (0702) 41341 or 41362
Telex 99288

Appendix

Direction under Section 1 (6) of the Investment and Building Grants Act 1971

The Secretary of State having by the Investment Grants Termination (No. 5) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 32) provided that applications for grants under Part 1 of the Industrial Development Act 1966 in respect of expenditure incurred during certain periods are to be made before certain dates therein specified and that such applications are to be made in such a form and manner and to contain such particulars and be accompanied by such documents as he may direct:

The Secretary of State hereby directs that applications to which the Order applies:

a shall be made on such form available from any of the Regional Development Grants Offices (or in the case of a form relating to computers, ships, or hovercraft, the Investment Grants Office, Southend-on-Sea) of the Department of Industry and bearing the number specified in the first column of the Annex to this direction as is appropriate to assets of the class to which the asset, in relation to which the application for grant is made, belongs, such classes being specified in relation to each form in the second column of the said Annex, and

b shall contain the particulars required by that form and by the explanatory note specified in the Annex to this direction as relating to that form, including the reports so required by an accountant having the qualifications set out in that explanatory note.

Annex

Application forms

Form no.	Asset	Explanatory notes
IG/1	Plant and machinery provided for use in the manufacturing and ship repairing industries	IG/1/A
IG/2	Plant and machinery provided for use in the construction industry	IG/2/A
IG/3	Plant and machinery provided for use in the extractive industry	IG/3/A
IG/3(CS)	Plant and machinery provided for use in the extractive industry in an area designated by order in council under Section 1 of the Continental Shelf Act 1964	IG/3/(CS)/A
IG/4	Plant and machinery hired out for use in the manufacturing, ship repairing and extractive industries	IG/4/A
IG/5	Plant and machinery provided for hiring out for use for construction purposes	IG/5/A
IG/6	A computer for use by the applicant or hired out for a period of not less than three years	IG/6/A
IG/7	A new ship	IG/7/A
IG/8	A hovercraft provided for use by the applicant	IG/8/A
IG/9	Mining works	IG/9/A
IG/11	Plant and machinery provided for use in the manufacturing and ship repairing industries*	IG/1/A
IG/12	Plant and machinery provided for use in the construction industry*	IG/2/A
IG/13	Plant and machinery provided for use in the extractive industry*	IG/3/A
IG/14	Plant and machinery hired out for use in the manufacturing, ship repairing and extractive industries	IG/4/A
IG/15	Plant and machinery provided for hiring out for use for construction purposes*	IG/5/A
IG/16	A computer leased for period of less than three years	IG/16/A
IG/17	New parts for a ship	IG/17/A
IG/18	A hovercraft hired out by the applicant	IG/18/A
IG/20	Expenditure incurred in the production of a prototype for use in scientific research	IG/20/A
IG/36	A computer*	IG/6/A (amended)

* This form incorporates an undertaking for use when the asset has been disposed of before the application for grant is made.

Fluctuations in the waste paper market

Quite suddenly many people have discovered that the waste paper they have laboriously collected is now not wanted. They are at a loss to understand why yesterday's valuable resource is today's 'load of rubbish'. This is made clear in many letters flooding into the Department of Industry and the Department of Environment from charities, voluntary groups and individuals. The lucky ones are those who have previously negotiated a long term contract with a paper mill or reputable merchant.

Anxiety over this situation was expressed on 14 February at a meeting called by Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry. He urged the industry to look into three immediate measures:

i that they consider one of their own members' suggestion that they devise a 'deferred payment' scheme in which stocks would be taken in on payment of a small sum on account and the balance to follow when the situation improved.

ii that the industry should submit an application for financial assistance under the Industry Act or failing either of these

iii that the industry should clear the pipe line by taking in supplies at a price which reflected only collection and processing costs.

The mills and principal merchants also undertook to clear all stocks currently held by voluntary collectors with whom they have longstanding connections. But it was made equally clear that for the next few months at least all voluntary collection should cease, unless special arrangements are made.

This is because the paper industry cannot possibly use all the waste paper currently being collected. It was estimated that collections exceeded usage by between 7-15,000 tonnes each week. For those bodies who are not protected by contracts, the Government tried to obtain some relief by asking the mills and merchants to take up outstanding stocks. Mr. Meacher stressed that these collections were made partly in response to the paper industry's own campaign and in consequence mills had a moral obligation towards the collectors.

The representatives of the mills and merchants shared the Government's anxiety to maintain faith with all collectors but explained that they had been taken by surprise by the unprecedented speed of the turn round from under to over-supply and the severity of the cut-back in paper mills' order books. Within a matter of weeks the picture had changed dramatically – in November the paper industry had broken its all-time record for waste paper consumption, but now output had had to be cut back by on average 40 per cent and stocks of waste paper at mills and merchants totalling between 280-300,000 tonnes. Newspapers were

cutting back in size and in consequence less old newspapers were needed at the de-inking plants for newsprint production. Many mills and merchants had no more room for further stock and all were affected by cash flow problems caused by inflation. The industry's spokesman confirmed their view that the situation was only a temporary one and that by the autumn large quantities of waste paper would again be needed. The problem was in bridging the gap. One difficulty was in knowing how much waste paper the voluntary groups might have stored in garages, church halls and scout huts up and down the country. One estimate was that more than 10,000 tonnes might be involved.

The Government, the mills and merchants and the Local Authority representatives confirmed their intention to work for a long-term increase of an additional 1 million tonnes of waste paper per annum by 1980 and agred that if this aim was to be achieved all had a part to play in explaining to the public at large that the present situation was only a temporary one.

Telex for Design Council

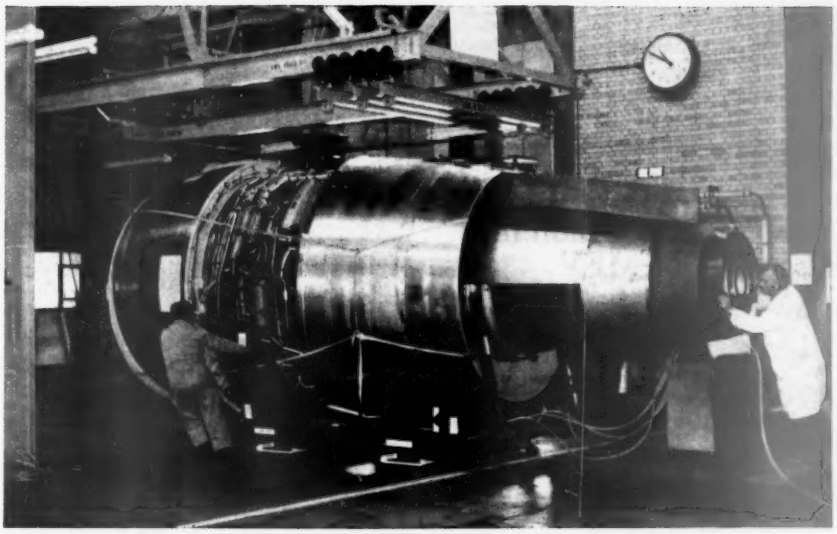
The Design Council has had a Telex machine installed. The number is 8812963 and the answer back code is: GOODESIGN, LDN.

Post Office auditors reappointed

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, has reappointed Coopers and Lybrand of Abacus House, Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AH, and Touche, Ross and Co. of 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5PH as joint auditors of the Post Office.

The appointment covers the audit of the account for the financial year 1974-75. It has been made in pursuance of subsection (2) of Section 42 of the Post Office Act 1969, as amended by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (Dissolution) Order 1974.

These two firms were originally appointed as auditors of the Post Office in 1969 and have audited all its accounts since then.



It now takes only two or three men to move a 6½-ton Rolls-Royce RB211 engine at British Airways Heathrow airport maintenance facility. The feat is achieved by the use of the Aero-Go load-moving system based on the air film principle. The system, provided by Applied Technology Company Ltd., Heathrow, comprises four Aero-Caster load modules, each 21 inches square, with a total load lifting capacity of 12 tons, working off existing shop air supplies.

Terrorism in the air

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, spoke on 13 February of the two main practical lines of defence against terrorism in the air – effective passenger searching and the safeguarding of airports.

Addressing Shoreditch Rotary Club, Mr Clinton Davis said:

'I believe that passengers and hand baggage should be searched on all international scheduled flights from our airports, and by British airlines throughout the world, and I have received full co-operation to achieve this.

'The other vital defence must be the safeguarding of airports, and all our international airports have received close attention. It was for this reason that the Metropolitan Police assumed full policing responsibility at Heathrow.

'The nature of terrorism is such that no absolute guarantees can be given, but we keep all our measures under continuous review in close consultation with all concerned.

'In the light of the circumstances of the Dubai hi-jacking, in which the aircraft was stormed by armed terrorists, it is right that we should look again at the armed protection of our aircraft. For overseas airports, we are having discussions with other Governments.

'At our own airports the measures called for by the current threat have been taken, and the appearance of troops at Heathrow shows the seriousness of our planning.

'The carriage of armed guards in flight, however, raised difficult questions for consideration, notably the danger to passengers from an armed combat in mid-air, either from direct injury or from damage to the aircraft which could cause it to crash.

'As a long-term supporter of civil liberties, it is a source of pleasure to me that no serious sacrifices have been required to counter terrorism in the air. The main practical impact of security measures on the average air traveller lies in passenger searching. Airlines may, and do, decline to carry passengers who refuse to be searched.'

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Industrial and commercial property

Public investigation into stranding of MFV 'Wyre Majestic'

The Department of Trade has ordered a public Formal Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the stranding and subsequent loss of the MFV *Wyre Majestic* on 18 October 1974.

A further announcement will give the date, time and place of the opening of the hearing.

The *Wyre Majestic*, a Fleetwood trawler, stranded on the coast of the Isle of Islay. The eight members of the crew got ashore in a life raft but the trawler had to be abandoned and became a total loss.

Light dues

A draft Order in Council under Section 5 of the Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act 1898 has been laid before Parliament seeking authority to increase by about 23 per cent the light dues payable by foreign-going steamers paying the full rate; the remaining rates being amended proportionately. In addition, the maximum number of home-trade voyages on which dues are payable has been increased from 10 to 12.

The increase is required to meet higher costs and will come into operation on 1 April 1975. The charges relate mainly to international traffic.

Light dues, which are payable by ships calling at ports in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland, meet the cost of the services provided by the three General Lighthouse Authorities – Trinity House, Northern Lighthouse Board and Commissioners of Irish Lights. The dues are paid into the General Lighthouse Fund which is administered by the Department and annual accounts are presented to Parliament.

British shipping industry – new COI booklet

'Shipping', a new Central Office of Information reference pamphlet in the British Industry Today series is now available from HM Stationery Office.*

It describes the British merchant shipping industry engaged in the commercial carriage of cargo or passengers. The initial sections are concerned with the British merchant fleet and its operations, outlining the structure of the industry (including ownership and control), the development of consortia, the changing nature of shipping services and the industry's research and development.

Statistics show the principal types of vessel in the British fleet and the growth of the British fleet in relation to that of the other leading maritime nations.

Other sections describe the role of the Government, employment, safety at sea (including sea rescue, pilotage and traffic control), and the measures being taken to prevent pollution of the sea.

*'British Industry Today – Shipping'. RP125, HMSO 42p (by post 47p) is obtainable from Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH), Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, or through any bookseller. ISBN 0 11 7006785.

Food values consultant appointed by DPCP

Miss Louise Davies has been appointed consultant on food values to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection with effect from 10 February.

Miss Davies, who is head of the Geriatric Nutrition Unit at Queen Elizabeth College, London University, will provide a weekly commentary, on prospective food prices, saying which foods are currently plentiful and offer good value, how to judge quality, and how these foods may be used to the best advantage.

In her consultant capacity, Miss Davies will be expressing her personal views.

The Greek-flag 25,000-ton bulk carrier *Kehrea* anchored in Cowes Roads last month, because of damage to No. 4 unit in the eight-cylinder MAN diesel main engine. She was bound from Antwerp to New Orleans, fully loaded with steel coils, and was on time charter so repairs had to be done quickly. Superintendent Engineer George Whitelaw of Pegasus Ocean Services (London representatives of the Greek ship's owners) contacted Vosper Thornycroft Ship Repair Division's commercial and sales manager, Alan Bartlett, late that night and was given an immediate answer. British Transport Dock Board authorities immediately found accommodation and the ship berthed in Southampton Docks next day. No. 4 unit was opened up, piston assembly removed and brought ashore. Several specific machining operations were carried out, a new piston crown fitted and the whole assembly made ready for returning aboard. No. 4 cylinder liner was removed from the engine and replaced by a spare one. The scavenge air blowers were also overhauled off the vessel. Finally No. 4 unit was rebuilt and an engine trial successfully carried out. The whole emergency operation was carried out in six days with nightshift and weekend work as required.

Proposed newspaper merger referred to Monopolies Commission

The proposal by the Guardian and Manchester Evening News Ltd. to acquire the Rochdale Observer series of newspapers has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The Rochdale Observer series, owned by G. and A. N. Scott Ltd., comprises the *Rochdale Observer*, the *Rossendale Free Press*, the *Heywood Advertiser* and the *Moston, Middleton and Blackley Guardian*. Generally, the Secretary of State is required to obtain a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission before deciding whether to consent to the transfer of a newspaper, such as the *Rochdale Observer*, which has a circulation exceeding 25,000 per day of publication. Accordingly on 12 February she exercised her power to refer all the proposed acquisitions to the Commission.

This reference, the seventh concerning a newspaper merger since the Monopolies and Mergers Act came into force in 1965, in no way prejudges the public interest issues of this acquisition; it is for the Commission to investigate these and report their findings.

Notes

The Fair Trading Act 1973 (sections 57-62) provides that the transfer of a newspaper to a newspaper proprietor whose newspapers after the transaction will have an average circulation per day of publication of 500,000 or more copies shall be unlawful and void unless the transfer is made with the written consent of the Secretary of State. The only circumtances in which such consent may be given without an investigation by the Commission are:

a that the newspaper concerned is not economic as a going concern and as a separate newspaper:
and either
i that the newspaper is not intended to continue as a separate newspaper;
or ii that if it is so to continue the case is one of urgency;.
b that the newspaper concerned has an average circulation per day of publication of not more than 25,000 copies.

These provisions do not apply here; accordingly the Secretary of State is obliged to make the reference. The circulation of both editions of the *Rochdale Observer* (a bi-weekly published on Wednesday and Saturday) is over 25,000; the other newspapers concerned have circulations under that figure but are being referred as a whole because they are associated.

The Commission are required to make their report within the statutory period of three months unless there are special reasons for delay.

The first six references of newspaper mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission were:

i the transaction whereby *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* came under common ownership (1966); ii the acquisition by the Thomson Organisation of Crusha and Sons Ltd. (1968); iii the acquisition by George Outram and Co. Ltd. of some Scottish weekly newspapers (1970); iv the acquisition by Berrow's Organisation Ltd. of the Stourbridge County Express Series of newspapers (1972); v the acquisition by Westminster Press Ltd. of newspapers from Morgan Grampian Ltd. (1973); vi the acquisition by Associated Newspapers Group Ltd. of newspapers from Courier Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. (1974).

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection are enabled by the Act to appoint three to five additional members of the Commission from a panel of persons maintained for the purpose to take part in the investigation of a newspaper merger. Members of the panel are being approached with a view to their appointment on this occasion.

The panel, first set up in 1965, was reconstituted in 1973 when the following agreed to serve:

Lord Annan, Provost of University College, London;
Mrs. Christine Bicknell, a former Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade;
Mr. William Brown, CBE, Managing director, Scottish Television Ltd.;
Mr. Alastair Burnet, Editor, *Daily Express*;
Miss Frances Cairncross (Mrs. Hamish McCrae), Economic correspondent, *Guardian*;
Mr. J. Clement Jones, CBE, Director of Midland News Association Ltd., and a former editor of the Wolverhampton *Express and Star*;
Sir William Hayter, Warden of New College, Oxford;
Mrs. Anne Piper, Headmistress, Wimbledon High School for Girls.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the merger between the Cooperative Insurance Society Ltd. and The Oldham Estate Company Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

New appointment to Monopolies and Mergers Commission

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Terence Patrick Lyons as a new member of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission from 1 February 1975. Mr. Lyons's appointment brings the present membership of the Commission up to 22.

Firework accidents fall

Firework injuries fell to 883, the lowest recorded figure, in 1974. Answering a question in the House of Commons on 10 February Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said: 'Statistics based on information provided by hospitals in England and Wales relating to persons who received hospital treatment for injuries caused by fireworks during the period 13 October-9 November 1974 have just become available. I will, with permission, circulate them in the Official Report, with the figures for the comparable periods in the four preceding years.'

The figures show a general decline to 883, a drop of 25 per cent compared with those of the previous year. Serious injuries were also down by some 26 per cent to 191 (258 in 1973).

Bread prices rise

Most retail bread prices went up from 18 February.

In a written answer to a Parliamentary question from Mr. Ron Lewis MP (Carlisle) on 12 February, Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'Following the Price Commission's determinations on recent price notifications from the major plant bakers which resulted from the wage settlements in the baking industry and the application of the new Price Code, I have considered the position of the subsidy and the retail price of bread. I have decided that retail prices should be able to rise to the extent necessary to cover the Commission's determinations. There will also be a small additional price adjustment on loaves of special interest to the craft bakers because of the additional retail wage and other costs they have incurred, and an adjustment to the differential in Northern Ireland.

'Most retail bread prices in Great Britain will therefore rise from Tuesday 18 February by up to 1½p on large and ½p on small standard loaves. The increase on large non-standard loaves will normally also be 1½p, although one or two special varieties may rise by 2p. Small non-standard loaves will rise by up to 1p. Because of special factors affecting Northern Ireland, the increase in the maximum price for standard loaves there will be 1p more on a large loaf and ½p on a small loaf. Consequential amendments may be expected in the prices of non-subsidised bread products. An order revising the statutory maximum prices accordingly will be laid before the House this week.

'The rate of subsidy (which was increased on 12 January on an interim basis pending

my review of retail prices) will be restored to its earlier level, subject to any minor adjustments necessary in the light of the Commission's determinations.'

Bread prices have been stable for the last year as a result of the subsidy at an average of about 14p for a large white sliced loaf and about 9½p for a small white loaf.

The bread subsidy was introduced on 24 March 1974 and was adjusted in May, August and September 1974 and, on an interim basis, in January. The rate of subsidy will not now revert, subject to any minor adjustment necessary as a result of the Price Commission's determinations, to £5.16 per sack of flour (equivalent to about 2½p on large loaves and about 1½p on small loaves). The interim adjustment has cost about £1½ million. The full cost of the subsidy in 1974/75 is estimated at about £64 million.

The Bread Prices Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1711), which came into operation on 28 October 1974, requires retailers not to charge more for bread than the prices set out in the Order or those they were charging on 20 March 1974, whichever are the lower. The present increases will apply equally to both types of maximum price.

Safety mark for BSI

The British Standards Institution is to adopt a distinctive safety certification mark in addition to its famous Kitemark.

This is necessary because under article 10 of the EEC Low Voltage Directive, Community Members are required to conform to the safety requirements of the Directive in the field of electrical equipment by providing safety marks or certification or declarations of conformity.

Bodies authorised to grant such marks or issue such certificates have to be nominated by member governments. BSI, with other certification bodies (eg the Association of Short Circuit Testing Authorities (ASTA), the British Approvals Service for Electric Cables (BASEC) and the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board for Household Equipment (BEAB) has been nominated by the UK Government for certain categories of electrical products.

To be considered for nomination in terms of the schemes for which currently the Kitemark operates, BSI needed a mark concerned only with safety requirements. This has now been designed and is being registered by BSI. The new mark, based on a triangle incorporating the letters BSI in stylised form, will be a mark of conformity with a British Standard dealing only with safety, or with those parts which relate to safety characteristics in British Standards or wider application. The stringent Kitemark testing and surveillance methods will be used in the certification of product safety. It is intended that, as with Kitemark procedures, a separate scheme will be devised for each standard, discussed and agreed with manufacturers, and then lodged with the Registrar.

The mark will be used to certify electrical products only for the time being, but there may be wider applications in future. It is to BSI's advantage to have a mark available for use under any future Directive relating solely to safety which may emerge in other fields (eg gas appliances, building products) and for implementing the terms of the new Health and Safety at Work etc. Act. Alongside the special BSI Safety Mark, the Kitemark may be used as a symbol of wider conformity to meet the demand for standards and related approval schemes concerning more than safety.

One essential corollary to nomination of BSI under the Directive is the establishment of Certification Committees. Competent, experienced and representative committees are needed to undertake responsibility for issuing marks, certificates and licences and for dealing with questions, appeals and complaints. In relation to the Safety Mark the Quality Assurance Council, which is responsible for the Kitemark operations of BSI, has authorised the formation of two Certification Committees – the Certification Committee for Lamps and Lighting Equipment (formed several months ago, following a long-standing commitment); and the Certification Committee for Electrical Equipment. This second committee is to be formed immediately, and nominations for membership have been sought from the appropriate manufacturing, approval, research and consumer interests.

Public sector standards for textiles

Towels and napkins are specified in the third Public Authority Standard (PAS 19: 1975 – Towels and Napkins) in the textiles field published on 31 January. The standard defines requirements in the public sector for five sizes of terry cotton towel and one napkin. It covers both dimensional and performance requirements and refers to a number of British Standard tests relating to the size, construction and colour fastness of fabrics.

Public Authority Standards are designed to achieve economies in public sector purchasing by reducing the variety of common user items required by participating organisations. They are published by the British Standards Institution on behalf of the Public Sector Standardisation Team, which is led by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and comprises representatives from other government departments, nationalised industries, local authorities and other public bodies.

The two Standards for textiles issued last year covered sheeting, sheets and pillow slips, and workwear materials.

Public Authority Standards may be purchased from: The British Standards Institution (Sales Branch), Newton House, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND, or The British Standards Institution, 115 Portland Street, Manchester M1 6EB.

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Price Commission interventions during January

During January the Price Commission rejected 18 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Categories I and II. In another 38 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notifications of intended increases and in 98 the extent of the increases was reduced by the Commission. Of these, three rejections, 11 withdrawals and 42 modifications were dealt with under the Stage 3 Price Code.

In all, since November 1973 under the Stage 3 Code the Commission rejected a total of 1,296 notifications and reduced the extent of a further 952; 448 notifications were withdrawn.

In January under the Stage 4 rules, which came into effect on 20 December, the Commission rejected 15 notifications and modified 56; 27 notifications were withdrawn. See attached lists.

During January the Price Commission reached agreement with one manufacturer and 11 distributors in Category II to ensure price reductions amounting to £1.4 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following their inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category III, the Commission's regional officers have secured agreement with 40 retailers, 12 wholesalers, eight manufacturers and one service enterprise in that Category to make price reductions amounting to £1.6 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional officers secured a total of 114 individual voluntary price reductions following their investigation of complaints about price increases.

Notes

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by Category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28 day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented. Announcements about price increases which occur after the notification period has expired, and where the Price Commission has not intervened, are the responsibility of the companies imposing the increase.

Category III firms – the medium sized and smaller enterprises – do not prenotify intended price increases, but they are obliged to keep records of their costs, prices and profit margins. Under the Information Order (SI 1974, No. 2115) laid before Parliament on 18 December 1974 they are required to register with the Price Commission by 1 March.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
STAGE 4		
GEC Radio & Television Ltd.	Colour and monochrome television receivers, radiograms and audio products	10.63
Spillers Foods Ltd.	Canned meat products	3.90
Trust Houses Forte Leisure Ltd.	Site and caravan letting and catering prices	15.98
Trust Houses Forte Catering Ltd.	Food and drink in Henekey Inns	3.42

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
STAGE 3		
Callard & Bowser Nuttall Ltd.	Confectionery	10.37
The Blackpool Tower Co. Ltd.	Services	5.60
STAGE 4		
Birnam Products Ltd.	Springs and spring interiors	5.86
BOCM Silcock Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	1,47
Colman Foods Ltd.	Soft drinks	8.99
Flather Bright Steels Ltd.	Bright steel	16.91
H. J. Heinz Ltd.	Selected retail catering products	7.03
Spillers Farm Feeds Group Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	1.00
Spillers-French Baking Ltd.	Long life flour confectionery (excluding private label)	11.90
The Lace Web Spring Co. Ltd.	Spring Interiors	6.85
Unigate Foods Ltd.	Yogurt and soft cheese	13.72
United Biscuits Ltd.	Biscuits, crisps and processed nuts	9.98

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	Reduction made (percentage points)
Category I			
STAGE 3			
Allen West-EAC Ltd.	Electric motor control equipment	8.70	0.22
Associated British Foods Ltd.	Bread	4.58*	0.55*
Avis Rent-a-Car Ltd.	Car and truck rentals	5.01	0.01
BICC Ltd.	Cables and wires	1.95	0.24
Carrington Viyella Ltd.	Commission processing	9.65	0.31
	Sheets, pillow cases and other woven home furnishings	11.73	0.24
CAV Ltd.	Entire range (except inline pumps for OE market)	11.82	0.88
Colman Foods Ltd.	Baby food	6.37	0.18
Dynatron Radio Ltd.	Video products	10.04	1.78
General Motors Ltd.	Automobile accessories	10.48	0.48
Humphries Holdings Ltd.	Whole range of products – film processing, etc	12.40	3.15
Plessey Telecommunications Ltd.	Mining equipment	23.96	0.47
Qualcast (Derby Foundries) Ltd.	Unmachined iron castings	10.66	0.27
RHM Bakeries Ltd.	Bread	5.00*	0.37*
RHM Flour Mills Ltd.	Biscuits, and other soft flours	5.67	0.91
Scot-Bowyers Ltd.	Manufactured meat products	6.70	0.66
C & B Smith Foundries Ltd.	Automotive grey iron castings	10.79	0.01
Times Newspapers Ltd.	Cover price and advertising rates for the Sunday Times	9.17	1.16
Wilsons & Mathiesons Ltd.	Domestic gas cookers and spare parts	7.40	0.09

* The increase, which took effect in January, was at the time largely offset by subsidy

STAGE 4			
Advance Laundries (Western) Ltd.	Domestic and commercial laundering and dry cleaning.	8.21	0.23
Beecham Foods Ltd.	Ribena	15.70	0.10
	Soft drinks (concentrates)	14.26	0.03
Boulton & Paul Ltd.	Framed products	35.69	2.85
	External doors	21.61	2.13
Cadbury Ltd.	Chocolate and sugar confectionery	11.16	0.24
Callard & Bowser Nuttall Ltd.	Confectionery	18.46	0.45
Coca-cola Bottlers (Scotland & Northern) Ltd.	Soft drinks	10.73	0.07
Corona Soft Drinks Ltd.	Soft drinks and vinegar for door to door sales	10.60	0.03
	Soft drinks and vinegar (wholesale)	12.00	0.10
Crest Hotels Ltd.	Apartments, food and drink	3.62	0.05
Decca Radio and Television Ltd.	Commercial colour television	5.00	0.36
Exors of James Mills Ltd.	Bright Steel	21.92	1.53
FA Power Ltd.	Bright steel products	22.00	0.01
GKN (South Wales) Ltd.	Cold rolled strip	21.99	3.41
Plastic Coatings Ltd.	Coating service	6.58	0.15
RHM Bakeries Ltd.	Rolls, morning goods, cake, meat goods, savoury goods, catering and take-away products	7.01	0.03
Rubery Owen Conveyancer Ltd.	Fork truck spares	7.00	0.19
Smedley HP Foods Ltd.	Pickles	8.30	0.47
Spillers-French Baking Ltd.	Long life flour confectionery (excluding private label)	15.42	0.39
	Private label flour confectionery	12.98	0.27
	Rolls, buns and short life flour confectionery	12.83	0.18
Tube Products Ltd.	Cold drawn welded steel tubing, welded nickel alloy, stainless steel tubing	16.563	0.001
Tubes Ltd.	Hot rolled fully finished and semi-finished seamless carbon and alloy steel tubing	24.49 + £8.61 per tonne	£0.02 per tonne
United Biscuits Ltd.	Biscuits, crisps and processed nuts	10.02	0.28

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category II		
STAGE 3		
Homeworthy Guaranteed Furniture Ltd.	Domestic furniture	10.00
Loud & Western Ltd. – Brixton Laundry	Laundering	8.13
Wilmot Breedon (Truflo) Ltd.	Commercial ball valves	33.00
STAGE 4		
British Vita Co. Ltd.	All products from the polymeric compounding division at Acton	16.94
Chubb Integrated Systems Ltd.	Security equipment	6.88-34.56
	Service contracts	75.00
Combex Ltd.	Toys	16.10
Elliott Machine Tools Ltd.	Surface grinder, tool and cutter grinder, vertical and universal sturdimills	Not quantified
Endura Lamps Ltd.	Fluorescent tubes, tungsten lamps, fluorescent fittings	5.00
Link 51 Ltd.	Steel and storage equipment	13.45
M. & R. Martini & Rossi Ltd.	Vermouth and Asti Spumanti	10.80
Moresecure Ltd.	Steel shelving and storage structures plus erection services	13.23
Jean Sorelle & Co. Ltd.	Toiletries	16.60
Wellman Gas Engineering Ltd.	Gas conversions and valves	19.19
Jonas Woodhead Ltd.	Laminated springs and distribution of spares for commercial road vehicles	21.70

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category II		
STAGE 3		
John Beales Associated Companies Ltd.	Underwear	3.10
E. H. Bentall & Co. Ltd.	Building products	7.00
H. Cameron Gardner Ltd.	Hydraulic loading equipment	10.00
Coles Cranes Ltd.	Mobile Cranes	5.65
Cummins Engine Co. Ltd.	Engines and spare parts	10.40
Cummins Engine Co. Ltd. – Darlington Division	Engines and spare parts	6.20
Electrolux Ltd.	Domestic appliances, accessories, spare parts and service charges	2.52
Elkes Biscuits Ltd.	Biscuits and cakes	15.00
Seagram (UK) Ltd.	Various spirits	Not quantified
STAGE 4		
Barkers & Lee Smith Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	1.21
A. G. Barr & Co. Ltd.	Soft drinks	30.63
Bondworth Ltd.	Axminster and Wilton carpets and rugs	3.2-8.7
Cantrell & Cochrane (Great Britain) Ltd.	Soft drinks	7.21
Clover Dairies Ltd.	Range of fresh cream	11.10-14.60
Crosfields Farm Foods Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	1.06
Greengate Industrial Polymers Ltd.	Conveyor belting, hose, rubber extrusions, mouldings, compound sheeting, seals and v-belts	6.54
Leighton Laundry Ltd.	Laundering	7.14
George Payne & Co. Ltd.	Confectionery	1.68
	Various beverages	4.84
	Various beverages	1.73
Ronson Products Ltd.	Electrical personal and household appliances	5.36
Royal Albert Laundry Ltd.	Laundering	8.47
Slimcea Ltd.	Slimming sugars	15.40
The Daily Telegraph Ltd.	Cover price of Sunday Telegraph	25.00
Wellcome Foundation Ltd. – Consumer Division	Belts	12.60
B. G. Wyatt Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	1.04

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	Reduction made (percentage points)
Category II			
STAGE 3			
George Ackroyd Jnr. Ltd.	Mohair, kid mohair and alpaca combing; mohair and nylon wool recombing	41.64	6.64
Albion Sugar Co. Ltd.	Glucose and invert sugar	13.07	1.37
Avery-Denison Ltd.	Physical testing and dynamic balancing machines	7.00	0.21
Brake Cables Ltd.	Flexible conduits and cables	8.45	0.65
Clay Cross (Iron Foundry) Ltd.	Spun ductile iron pipes and fillings	8.57	0.97
Erie Electronics Ltd.	Passive electronic components	12.50	1.50
Fothergill & Harvey Ltd.	Fabrics produced from nylon polyester and pvdc yarns	15.61	0.72
Mander-Domolac Ltd.	Thinners and solvents	8.70	0.001
	Industrial surface coatings and related products	6.84	0.68
John Morrell & Co. Ltd.	Mushroom products	13.74	0.12
Nu-Way Heating Plants Ltd.	Oil and gas burners	13.00	1.00
Rockwell Maudslay Ltd.	Axles and spare parts	9.80	2.10
S. Russell & Sons Ltd.	Iron castings	8.46	0.05
W. E. Saxby (Nottn.) Ltd.	Charges for dyeing and finishing textiles	12.40	2.10
Security Express Ltd.	Commercial cash in transit	21.48	5.00
Sheepbridge Stokes Ltd. – Alloy Castings Division	Special heat and corrosion resisting steel castings	7.00	0.20
Starch Products Ltd.	Starch derivatives and adhesives	4.83	0.09
The Steel Nut and Joseph Hampton Ltd.	Bright drawn steel	23.91	2.64
Tenneco Organics Ltd.	Fruit tree wash (coal tar wash)	4.37	0.28
	Range of disinfectants	13.76	0.35
John Thompson and Sons Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	2.19	0.28
Van Leer (UK) Ltd.	Steel drums	13.33	0.45
Volex Electrical Products Ltd.	Electrical cables, wire armoured cables and flexibles	10.69	0.81
West Cheshire Newspapers Ltd.	Advertising rates	13.14	0.10
STAGE 4			
Adams Bros. & Burnley Ltd.	Presswork	14.63	0.67
Barton Conduits Ltd.	Steel tube and conduit fitting	13.90	0.70
Bendicks (Mayfair) Ltd.	Chocolate confectionery	15.10	3.30
Bovril Ltd.	Commercial grade roller-dried full cream powder	19.11	0.10
	National dried full cream milk powder	14.20	0.19
	National dried half cream milk powder	20.50	0.06
Burnley Paper Works Co. Ltd.	Vat board	20.12	3.70
Century Oils Ltd.	Lubricants, petroleum based products, hygiene products and engine coolants	14.71	0.14
Chiltonian Ltd.	Biscuits	14.89	1.41
W. and G. Cox and Son Ltd.	Bathroom furniture	8.46	0.03
Ductile Cold Mill Ltd.	Strip in coil and lengths of coil	23.56	0.41
Garton Cooper (Bolt & Washer) Ltd.	Bolts, washers and pressings	19.60	0.06
Glenville Ltd.	Starch based products	4.04	0.22
	Jellies and powders	15.75	0.08
W. R. Grace Ltd.	Trisodium nitrilo triacetate	21.68	0.01
Hailwood & Ackroyd Ltd.	Hydraulic valves and power breaking components	3.95	0.19
Robert H. Hall & Co. (Kent) Ltd.	Pre-fabricated buildings	14.70	2.30
Henry and Leigh Slater Ltd.	Coated paper and boards	19.00	0.73
Howard Rotavator Ltd.	Horticultural rotavator	15.20	0.70
	Agricultural rotavator	14.90	0.50
	Manure spreader	17.20	0.30
	Blades	22.50	0.40
Arthur Lee & Sons Ltd.	Bright steel bars	21.36	0.01
Longmore Bros. Ltd.	Precision tube, galvanised and enamelled conduit	14.47	0.12
U. Mann & Son Ltd.	Engine powerpacks	11.11	0.30
Marley Floors Ltd.	Adhesives	4.95	0.07
May & Baker Ltd.	Horticultural and agricultural products	10.32	0.05
Midland Bright Drawn Steel and A. E. Goodrich & Son Ltd.	Bright drawn steel bars and wire	24.94	0.03
Nelco Ltd.	Traction and pump motors	16.10	0.45
Redland Ltd.	Roofing tiles	8.88	0.25
H. R. & S. Sainsbury Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	10.31	0.17
Sperry Rand Ltd.	Systems products	13.57	4.44
The Steetley Co. Ltd.	Sulphuric acid	27.83 + 61p per tonne	0.7p per tonne
Weetabix Ltd.	Alpen breakfast cereal	7.90	0.38
Worthington-Simpson Ltd.	Pumps, compressors and related equipment	6.01	0.01
USMC International Ltd.	Plastic moulding	12.51	0.15

Export pictures

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story, with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your news and photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Generators for Scotland and the Middle East

Diesel-powered generators for the oil production industry at home and abroad under construction at the Loughborough works of the Morrison Group. The control panel in the foreground is for a Scottish firm and incorporates manual synchronising equipment to enable three generator sets to operate in parallel; a similar panel with automatic synchronising is now under construction for operation in Bahrain. On the left are two of a batch of 200 kVA sets ordered for North Sea oil drilling rigs. Also in the picture are two 100 kVA sets for Oman and, partly hidden behind the man in the centre, a canopied 200 kVA set for Iraq. Morrison has also a busy order book for generators and air conditioning plant fuelled by natural and propane gas.

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Technology News

Chief Scientist addresses Royal Society on role of technology

'The great bulk of the physical wealth that we associate with "a high standard of living" derives from the application of technology, usually a wide variety of different technologies, to provide added value as a result of human effort,' commented Sir Ieuan Maddock, the Chief Scientist, during a lecture to the Royal Society on 12 February.

Commenting on the content of imports into the UK, and the increased cost of fuels, minerals and certain food bases, he pointed to 'the need to reduce the nation's dependence on these imports by developing indigenous resources for energy supplies, chemical and metallurgical feedstocks (including re-cycling) and agricultural and farming products.' As far as the other half of our imports were concerned, materials and products which have been manufactured, 'the vulnerability of the UK to these kinds of imports – all stemming from the appliion of technology in some form – is at the heart of the recurring balance of payment problems. The import bill for manufactured goods is comparable to that for fuel, whilst the imports of machinery and transport equipment exceeds that of food, drink and tobacco. Yet, in virtually all cases, the science, the technology and the human skills to produce these manufactured products exist within the shores of the UK. The problem is how to marshal these to produce efficient and competitive industry.'

Discussing expenditure on research and development, he commented that 'The total amount of money spent by government on R and D in the manufacturing industry (at constant prices) has remained virtually static since 1960. This tendency for rapid growth to be followed by a levelling off or a slow reduction is apparent in other countries. It was inevitable that there should be a "Brain Drain" in the early 1960s because the UK expenditure was remaining constant whilst that in the USA was still expanding.'

'A very large proportion of the total Government R and D expenditure' he argued, is *not* aimed at industrial improvement in any specific way. Where the objective has clearly been an industrial one a a significant portion has been aimed at a very small part of the total industrial pattern of the UK and an even smaller part of the total economic pattern.' Studying the inland energy consumption for the UK in 1972 on a heat supplied basis shows that nuclear power was responsible for under 3 per cent of the total energy consumption. 'In terms of net effect to the economy a comparable benefit could have been obtained by a 3 per cent reduction on energy utilisation by greater efficiency – but this target received very little prominence until very recently.'

Taking the capital investment per capita in different countries as a crude indicator of the level of funding which supports the national industries, 'It will be seen that the UK level lags behind the others to a significant extent.'

Among his conclusions, the Chief Scientist drew attention to the fact that 'There is insufficient emphasis on the post R and D activities of design manufacturing techniques, quality control, marketing and post-sales service.' He also saw danger in 'Being preoccupied with the ceaseless creation of new technologies and insufficient regard to the transfer of existing technologies,' and of 'producing an over-supply of elitist "researchers" whilst providing insufficient top quality people for detailed design, manufacturing, quality control, marketing and engineering management.' He commented finally that 'There is inadequate capital investment in modern plant and machinery, but this must be accompanied by the conditions which enable such an investment to be exploited efficiently.'

Review of sea pollution clearance measures

A new Standing Committee on Pollution Clearance at Sea which brings together 30 representatives of Government, the shipping industry, the oil industry and others concerned held its first meeting in London on 13 February at the Department of Trade.

The meeting agreed in principle that there was an urgent need to establish an experimental unit with the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Industry to evaluate different systems of collecting oil which has been spilt on the surface of the sea as opposed to the current practice of dispersing oil by chemicals.

Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Companies, Aviation and Shipping, in a message to the Committee said: 'In the past three years we have been fortunate that there has been only one major incident requiring action by the Department of Trade's national oil dispersal organisation. That was in the Humber estuary in 1973. However, we cannot afford to be complacent for we can only avoid these accidents if all concerned show the utmost vigilance. I therefore welcome the setting up of this new group to take a thorough look at our arrangements and to see what changes may be needed in future.'

The first meeting of the Standing Committee also discussed the holding of a programme of exercises during 1975 to test the dispersal organisation.

The Committee has been established by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, following a review of the Department's exercise of its responsibility for the clearance of pollution at sea. One of the conclusions of this review was that while co-ordination has worked well in the past there was a growing need for more systematic co-ordination, not only between Government Departments, but also with the oil industry and other bodies concerned.

The terms of reference are: To advise the Secretary of State for Trade on the further development of a capability for the clearance of pollution at sea, on the planning of re-resources and the procurement of equipment, and on organisational questions.

The Committee is composed of representatives of the Department of Trade, Warren Spring Laboratory, Department of the Environment, Department of Energy, Ministry of Defence, Scottish Development Office, Welsh Office, Northern Ireland Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, National Environmental Research Council, National Conservancy Council, Chamber of Shipping, British Seafarers' Joint Council, International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation Ltd., UK Offshore Operators' Association and major oil companies.

Members of the Standing Committee on Pollution Clearance at Sea meet for the first time at the Department of Trade in London on 13 February.

Underwater surveys by CONSUB

CONSUB (Continental Shelf Submersible), the unmanned remotely controlled seabed exploration vehicle designed and built by British Aircraft Corporation, Electronic and Space Systems Group, will enter service with the Institute of Geological Science in April. It will be used for underwater surveys off the United Kingdom's West Coast.

The vehicle was jointly purchased by IGS and the Department of Industry through a contract with BAC, with technical support from the Marine Technology Support Unit, at Harwell.

The prototype of CONSUB and the submersible experimental device ANGUS will both be on view on the stand of the Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board at the Oceanology '75 exhibition and conference at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton from 17-21 March.

This follows successful winter sea tests from the Royal Research Ship *Challenger*, operated by the National Environment Research Council, when CONSUB was taken on an extensive four week proving trial to geological sites near the Orkney Islands, the Shetlands, Moray Firth and to Hardanger Fiord, Norway. CONSUB dived to depths ranging from 56 ft. to 280 ft. at up to 820 ft. distant from the support vessel. Some dives lasted five hours and ranged over seabeds of sandy mud, rippled sand, small boulder fields and rock.

CONSUB views the undersea world through two television cameras illuminated by on-board floodlamps. The operator and observers sitting in the control cabin of the mother ship are able to monitor the vehicle's progress over the seabed. A permanent record can be taken by a video tape recorder.

During the trial an undersea cable was successfully tracked by CONSUB and a video tape recording made, showing the cable laying across jagged rocks on the steep slope of Hardanger Fiord. In another trial it located and inspected other equipment on the seabed. These results indicate that variants of this basic design would be valuable tools for all manner of undersea engineering and offshore energy tasks. For example it can be used for the inspection of pipelines and cables on the Continental Shelves.

CONSUB was found to be remarkably easy to control and can be positioned within inches. Its stability is such that it can be sailed on course at a constant depth 'hands off' the controls in areas of low current.

CONSUB has been built for the Edinburgh based Institute of Geological Sciences, Continental Shelf and Geophysical Division which provided the scientific direction for the trial. It has been specifically designed to explore the United Kingdom's Continental Shelf and to collect rock-core samples with its rock drill.

New linear accelerator for Harwell

The Harwell Atomic Energy Research Establishment is to have a powerful new electron linear accelerator (Linac) to update and improve its capabilities for research in support of the nuclear power programme. By firing the beam into a suitable target, the new machine will be used as a source of very short bursts of fast neutrons for underlying nuclear physics studies, fast reactor development, materials studies and later on for studies relating to thermonuclear fusion reactors. Treasury approval has been given for the expenditure of £2.8 million (at December 1974 values) spread over a period of four years. The contract for building the new machine is at an advanced stage of negotiation.

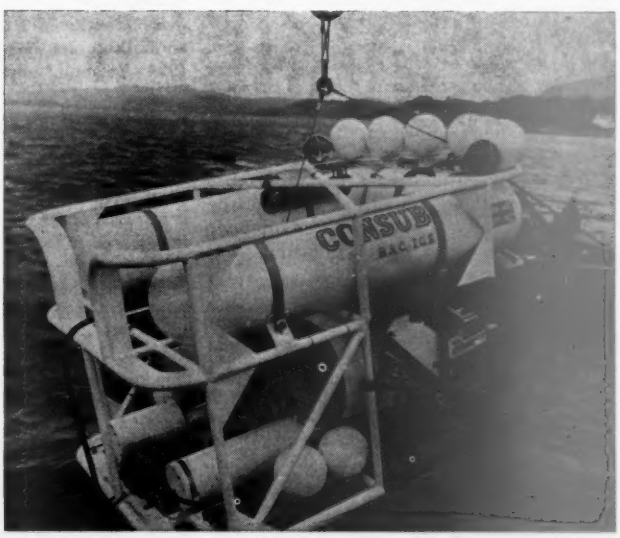
The new machine will have a maximum beam energy of 136 MeV and will replace Harwell's present 55 MeV Linac, which came into operation in 1958. To maintain continuity of work, and at the same time to keep costs down, it will make use of much of the existing Linac equipment, including, in particular, the neutron booster which multiplies the neutron pulse by a factor of 10. The present machine will continue to be used until the new one becomes operational, probably in 1978.

The new Linac will provide beams of electrons and neutrons very much higher in intensity than anything at present available in the UK. In conjunction with the booster it will provide a top-ranking world facility in the field of pulsed-neutron research, and will enable Harwell scientists to make further advances in fields of importance to the future development of nuclear power.

Because of the limited beam energies and intensities available from existing machines, many problems in the physics of interactions between neutrons and nuclei remain to be studied at high resolutions. Some of these problems relate to fast reactor core performance, some to safety and some to the expected service life of the materials used for reactor control, heat transfer and core construction. Others relate to fuel reprocessing, waste disposal and associated operations. Analogous problems will arise later in connection with fusion reactor systems.

The neutron production facilities in the new machine will also add to the thermal neutron beam facilities at present available for studying the properties and structures of solids, by increasing the intensity by at least a factor of 10 and by extending the useful maximum neutron energy by a factor of three or four.

Beams of neutrons having carefully selected energies have long been used for investigating the behaviour and properties of atomic nuclei and the physics of solids. This machine has been equipped with a 'booster' or neutron-multiplying assembly which remains a unique facility for neutron physics. In this device the electron beam falls on a heavy metal target generating high energy gamma rays which, in turn, give rise to photo-neutrons. These neutrons enter a sub-critical mass of uranium which multiplies the neutron pulse by a factor of 10.



Videotape displays in CONSUB's deck control room (left). One shows what the 'working' camera sees of the undersea world. The second camera is focused on CONSUB's illuminated instrument panel giving details of heading, speed and depth. CONSUB (right) was specifically designed to sample 5 in. rock cores from the seabed using a drill, but could be used for all manner of undersea engineering and offshore energy tasks.

Parliament

Monday, 10 February

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Ministers of State: Eric Heffer
Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Food subsidies

Mr. Ian Gow (Eastbourne) asked for an estimate of the cost of food subsidies during the current financial year; and the estimated cost for the financial year ending 5 April 1976.

'The estimated cost in the current financial year is about £510 million,' replied Mrs. Williams. 'The cost in 1975/76 is expected to be of the order of £550 million, that is in real terms, of course, and detailed estimates will be presented to the House in due course.'

Charges by publicly-owned industries

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked about arrangements for protecting the consumer in matters relating to charges and services by publicly-owned industries.

Mr. Williams answered that from 1 February the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection took over certain responsibilities in relation to the nationalised industry consumer councils and would be closely involved with the Ministers responsible for the industries concerned in matters affecting their consumers. 'She will also shortly be asking the new National Consumer's Council to undertake a fundamental review of the present arrangements for consumer representation in the nationalised industries generally,' he said.

Consumers in rural areas

Mr. David Steel (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for a statement outlining the steps she is taking to protect consumers in low paid rural areas.

'Our policies are designed to help and protect all consumers, especially low income consumers, in all parts of the country, however remote,' said Mr. Maclennan.

The Price Code

Dr. Keith Hampson (Ripon) asked what representations have been received in favour of amending the Price Code.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'Since the new Price Code was published the CBI, the Food and Drink Industries Council and some other trade associations and firms have made observations on various aspects; most have urged me to relax the Code still further.'

Inflation

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked the annual rate of inflation based on the Price Commission index for the last three months and Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) inquired about the main factors responsible for the increase in the Price Commission index since October.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'The Price Commission's index for the latest available period, which is 1 September to 30 November 1974, showed an annual rate of 19½ per cent. The upward swing reflects, as the Price Commission said in its report, increases throughout the energy sector, especially for oil, and rising costs of wages and salaries in all sectors. Revision of these prices is comparatively infrequent and the combined effect of these increases may have exaggerated the upward movement.'

Retail price index

Questions were asked by Mr. Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire), Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford), Mr. Neil Macfarlane (Sutton and Cheam) and Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) on the estimated rise in retail price index.

Mrs. Williams said: 'The Retail Price Index rose by 19.1 per cent in the 12 months to December 1974 and the increase over the three months to December expressed at an annual rate was 25.2 per cent. Since February 1974 the actual increase was 14.9 per cent.'

Price penalties on employers

Mr. Nick Budgen (Wolverhampton South-West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: 'Whether it remains her policy to impose price penalties on employers who feel obliged to concede wage demands outside the guidelines of the social contract?'

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'As my Rt. Hon. Friend has already told the House, the proposal for a differential productivity deduction depended on the consent of both sides of industry. This was not forthcoming.'

Food prices and EEC membership

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint) asked by how much food prices have increased in the United Kingdom since January 1973; and what proportion of this figure can be attributed to membership of the EEC.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The food price index rose by 37.4 per cent between January 1973 and December 1974. Latest official estimates indicate that food prices are, on balance, very slightly lower than they would have been were we not members of the Community. But the further we get from the date of entry into the Community, the harder it is to calculate what food prices would have been if we had stayed out.'

Questions were asked by Mr. Peter Blaker (Blackpool South) and Mr. George Gardiner (Reigate) who asked for examples, in terms of items bought by the average housewife, of the specific saving in the cost of cereals, beef, butter and sugar as a result of British membership of the EEC.

Mr. Maclennan said that the commodities mentioned benefited from EEC measures such as monetary compensatory amounts on imports and Community financed subsidies. He circulated the following information:

Possible UK consumer benefits on certain foodstuffs from monetary compensatory amounts on imports and from Community financed subsidies during the week 3-9 February 1975:

1 **Bread**

a MCA's are paid on imports of wheat from the EEC and third countries (mainly USA and Canada) and are currently worth £6.93 per ton. Assuming that the UK bread grist is now about 55 per cent imported wheat the MCA subsidy is requivalent to about 0.3p per large loaf (28 ounces).

b Until recently, levies on EEC wheat exports to third countries have meant that the UK was able to import EEC wheat cheaper than if she were outside the EEC Export levies are not at this point in time being charged and so no consumer benefit is now assumed.

2 **Beef**

a A social beef subsidy is now payable to virtually all pensioners in the form of a token, worth 20p a week, which can be redeemed for beef and veal. The precise value of this subsidy in terms of beef prices therefore depends upon the quality and quantity of beef purchased.

b MCA's are now payable in imports from the EEC and on imports under the GATT levy free quota. The amount varies considerably according to the form in which it is imported. But for imports of fresh or chilled carcase beef (and other bone-in cuts), which is a typical form of imports at present, the MCA amounts to £125.02 per ton or about 5½p per lb. on imported beef only. It would be misleading to spread this benefit over all beef sold in the shops, including home produced.

3 **Butter**

a The general consumer subsidy on butter is paid in part by FEOGA, and this portion is worth £25.33 per ton, equivalent to about 1p per lb.

b The MCA which is paid on imports is now worth between £88.85 per ton (80 per cent fat) and £91.08 per ton (82 per cent fat). This is equivalent to about 4p per lb.

4 **Sugar**

a The UK is benefiting from an EEC scheme to import sugar from world markets with the aid of a FEOGA subsidy. In the first tranche of 200,000 metric tons of raw sugar the UK is expected to receive 155,500 metric tons, and the subsidy on this to average £224.9 per ton (white). This is equivalent to a saving of about 20p per 2lb. bag on just over three weeks' total UK supplies. Total EEC imports of a further 300,000 metric tons have been agreed in principle, but tenders have not yet been accepted by the EEC and therefore the benefits cannot be assessed.

b MCA's are payable on our imports from EEC countries. These now amount to £18.78 per ton for raw sugar and £22.14 per ton for white sugar. This subsidy is equivalent to about 2p per 2lb. bag.

Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked about the estimated effect of Great Britain's membership of the EEC on prices and other consumer matters.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'While it is difficult to estimate the total effect of EEC membership on prices, prices of imported industrial goods from both the EEC and other parts of the world will be less because of reductions in tariffs; food prices are also at present slightly below what they would have been had we not been members. Community work on consumer protection is at an early stage, but I very much welcome the Commission's recent Programme for Consumer Protection and Information.'

The voluntary agreement

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) asked by how much the items in the voluntary agreement, taken both collectively and individually, have risen since the agreement was made.

Mr. Maclennan answered that the collective price of the goods in the voluntary agreement increased by 4.9 per cent between May and December 1974, the latest available month, compared with a rise in the retail price index of 8.6 per cent. He provided the following detailed information on individual commodities.

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT
Percentage Changes in Price Indices

A RETAILERS' LIST

ITEM – COVERAGE MAY DIFFER FROM AGREEMENT ITEMS IN SOME MINOR RESPECTS

	Percentage increase May-Dec 1974
Bread (per loaf) large white small white	0.5
Cheese (cheddar type)	10.1
Butter (NZ)	8.8
Milk-based infant food (full cream) per 16 oz. tin)	14.8
Self-raising flour (per 3 lb.)	– 2.1
Apples (dessert)	7.4
Bananas	3.1
Oranges	17.4
Potatoes	0.1
Tomatoes	0.4
Cabbage	–35.1
Cauliflower	4.0
Carrots	8.8
Onions	–23.1
Beef (all cuts home and imported)	–0.4
Lamb (cheap cuts home and imported)	–10.1
Chicken*	9.6
Chicken portions*	10.5
Biscuits (sweet lower priced)	24.9
Electric light bulbs	3.8
Matches	16.5
Toilet soap	15.9
Toothpaste	–9.4
INDEX ALL RETAILERS' ITEMS	2.4

* Chickens – Frozen 3 lb. and fresh and chilled 4 lb. Chicken portions – using index for frozen 3 lb. chickens.

B MANUFACTURERS' LIST

	Percentage increase May-Dec. 1974
Sausages (pork and beef)	5.6
Cooking fat and lard (lard price only)	16.5
Margarine	30.8
Tea (lower and medium priced (per ¼ lb.)	–2.8
Breakfast cereals	20.5
Fish fingers	–0.2
Frozen peas and beans	10.8
Instant coffee (per 4 oz.)	15.2
Baby (infant) foods (per jar)	30.0
Canned beans in tomato sauce	10.5
Canned soup	26.2
INDEX ALL MANUFACTURERS' ITEMS	12.4
INDEX ALL GOODS IN AGREEMENT	4.9
GENERAL INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES	8.6
FOOD INDEX	9.5
FOOD ITEMS MANUFACTURED IN THE UK INDEX	17.2

Business rents

Mr. Adam Butler (Bosworth) asked if representations have been received concerning the effects on the price of food and drink, including beer, as a result of the relaxation of the business rents freeze.

'I have received three letters about the decontrol of business rents, to which my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will reply,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Butler asked what percentage effect the relaxation of the business rents freeze is estimated to have on the retail price of food, and on the prices of food and drink sold in public houses.

'I understand that the overall effect on the prices of food and drink is likely to be very small,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Directory entries

Mr. Tom Normanton (Cheadle) inquired about progress to date in eliminating the spurious invoicing of entries for inclusion in trade and telegraphic directories.

'I am not satisfied with the directory entry provisions of the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1971, which have not proved effective in putting an end to this practice,' replied Mr. Williams. 'Measures to strengthen them are included in the Unsolicited Goods and Services (Amendment) Bill, which has the support of the Government.'

Pyramid selling

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for a statement upon her examination of operations of secondary banks where credit has been extended to persons engaged in pyramid selling operations in the Birmingham area.

'My Department is closely watching developments in this matter,' said Mr. Williams.

Consumer advice centres

Questions were asked by Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) and Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) on progress in establishing consumer advice centres.

Mr. Williams replied: 'The few representations I have received have generally welcomed the establishment of consumer advice centres, although a minority have questioned the need for them. There are currently about 50 centres. The pace of development is a matter for local authorities to decide in the light of their financial situation and of Government advice on expenditure on such services.'

Controls on cosmetics

Mrs. Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would make a study of the Bill which the French Health Minister is proposing to introduce to tighten controls on cosmetics, including a declaration of ingredients, with a view to introducing similar legislation.

'I am aware of the proposed French legislation,' said Mr. Williams. 'It is my intention to make regulations relating to the safety of cosmetic products on sale in this country, and their preparation will begin as soon as the proposed EEC directive on cosmetics, now under consideration by the Council of Ministers, is adopted.'

Sugar prices

Mrs. Audrey Wise (Coventry South-West) and Mrs. Millie Miller (Redbridge, Ilford North) asked if the increased profits of the sugar industry would be taken into account in determining the price of sugar to the housewife.

'This happens already,' said Mr. Williams. 'The net profit margins of the sugar refiners on their operations in the United Kingdom (though not their overseas operations) are limited by the Price Code in the same way as those of other enterprises. They are always taken into account by the Price Commission when an increase in the price of sugar is notified. Both the cane refining companies have recently reported substantially reduced profits on their UK refining interests.'

Mr. Phillip Whitehead (Derby North) asked how many complaints of sugar purchases being restricted to those who buy a minimum of £1 worth

of other goods have been received and Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked what representations have been received on the subject of supermarkets only being prepared to supply goods in short supply, subject to the purchase of a minimum amount or value of other goods.

Mr. Willliams replied: 'The 680 complaints about conditional sales which have been received since last July have all concerned sugar. About half quoted £1 as the minimum sum to be spent on other goods in order to obtain sugar.

'This practice is not illegal but I again urge that it should be applied with care to avoid unnecessary hardship.'

'Scottish Daily News'

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked about the provision of funds for the Scottish Daily News *venture.*

Mr. Benn replied: 'Last July the Government offered a loan to the Workers Action Committee, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. This offer still stands.'

Public ownership of the shipbuilding industry

Mr. Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, when he proposes to publish the White Paper on the public ownership of the shipbuilding industry.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'It will not be possible to publish a White Paper in the time available but a full statement on the Government's proposals will be made as soon as possible.'

National Enterprise Board

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked if the National Enterprise Board would examine and monitor foreign investment proposals; and, if so, what would be the guidelines.

'The Industry Bill does not require the National Enterprise Board to monitor or examine foreign investment proposals,' answered Mr. Heffer.

New industries for St. Helens

Mr. Leslie Spriggs (St. Helens) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would consider the provision of new industries for St. Helens.

'We are doing all we can to attract new industry,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'In August the Regional Employment Premium was doubled and Merseyside was granted Special Development Area status. When the NEB and the Planning Agreement system are in operation, we shall be able to do still more for areas like St. Helens.'

Israel-British Bank Ltd.

Mr. John Parker (Barking, Dagenham) wanted to know a likely completion date for the investigation into the affairs of the Israel-British Bank, which collapsed in July 1974.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Israel-British Bank (London) Ltd. is in compulsory liquidation by Order of the High Court and the Official Receiver is investigating its affairs. Inquiries are well advanced but I cannot at present say when they will be completed in this complex matter.'

Imports of knitted textiles

Questions were asked by Mr. Adam Butler on HMG's representations to Committee 113 of the EEC Commission in regard to restraints on imports of knitted textiles of all types specifying which knitted goods, if any, have not been the subject of request for restraint, and on the steps to be taken to avoid the risk of disruption of the UK half-hose industry in the event of a regional implementation of restraint on imports of socks by some other EEC countries and the switching of such low-cost imports into the UK market.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'In discussions of the mandates for the EEC's negotiations with the major Asian suppliers of low-cost knitwear, agreement has now been reached as to the products on which it would be consistent with the Multifibre Arrangement to seek Community-wide restraint. As talks with the supplying countries have not yet opened, it would not be appropriate to reveal details of the EEC's negotiating position. Where exceptionally there are regional restraints in other Community countries on particular products, HMG will keep our imports of these goods under close review.'

Carriage of air passenger with Lassa fever

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked if an inquiry would be set up into the circumstances whereby a Sabena Airline's passenger reported to have been suffering from Lassa fever was carried from Nigeria to London Airport via Brussels in unrestricted contact with other passengers and to examine what international guidelines exist covering the transportation by commercial airlines of passengers known to be suffering from infectious diseases.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'On 30 January my Hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Security stated that the circumstances of this case had been fully investigated, and indicated that his Chief Medical Officer was examining the issues with a view to minimising any risk.

'The International Air Transport Association have recommended practices in connection with the carriage of sick or infectious persons, and many airlines – including British Airways and British Caledonian Airways – have special internal instructions. The World Health Organisation has recently issued specific guidance about the handling of Lassa fever victims and suspects and their transport, where essential. If an airline captain has doubts about a passenger's health, he would normally require medical clearance before accepting him, as I understand was done in the recent case. I will examine with my Hon. Friend the possible scope for further safeguards in this matter, but the real problem seems to lie in diagnosing the infection prior to embarkation.'

Tuesday, 11 February

Patent Office accommodation

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked for information on the 'opportunity cost' of the Patent Office accommodation; and the basis used for arriving at this value.

Mr. Cliton Davis said: 'The estimated opportunity cost of Patent Office accommodation in financial year 1974-75 is approximately £2¾ million. This is based on average current market rentals for general purpose office buildings whether government-owned or not and includes other costs such as rates, maintenance and cleaning.'

Mr. Warren also asked how the basis used for arriving at the present 'opportunity cost' of Patent Office accommodation varies from the basis previously used; and on what date the system of calculation was changed.

'The system previously in use was based on the average amounts paid for Government-leased accommodation,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Opportunity costing was introduced in the Patent Office for the first time in respect of the financial year 1972-73.'

Mr. Warren then asked to be told the difference in value between the 'opportunity cost' of the Patent Office accommodation on the new formula compared with the old.

'The introduction of opportunity costing in financial year 1972-73 increased the charge for Patent Office accommodation by some £1.3 million to £2,236,000.' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Metrication Board advertising

Mr. Neville Trotter asked for information on the expenditure by the Metrication Board on its recent advertisements announcing the introduction of metric measures for carpets and materials.

'The allocation of advertising expenditure within their budget is a matter for the Metrication Board,' answered Mr. Williams. 'However the Board tell me that the estimated cost of the recent advertisements in the national daily and Sunday newspapers, the trade press and in women's magazines, informing consumers and others on metric measurements for fabrics and carpets, is about £112,500.'

EEC exports to Japan

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked for a statement on trends in EEC exports to Japan, and for an estimate of the effect on UK exports there of British membership of and withdrawal from the EEC, respectively.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Measured in US dollar values exports from the original EEC members to Japan rose by 77 per cent between 1972 and 1973 and by 35 per cent between the first eight months of 1973 and the first eight months of 1974. The Japanese economy and in consequence UK exports to Japan have been affected over this period by a number of factors including the energy crisis, changes in exchange rates and commodity price increases and it is not possible to identify the effect of UK membership of the EEC nor estimate the effect of any withdrawal.'

UK trade

Mr. Evan Luard (Oxford) asked what was the UK's deficit in visible trade with the present members of the EEC as a proportion of the UK's total deficit in visible trade in 1967, 1969, 1971, 1973 and 1974, respectively.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

Visible trade balances with EEC (8)

	£ million balance of payments basis	As a percentage of total trade balance
1967	−207	37
1969	−62	43
1971	−131	*
1973†	−1,131	48
1974† (provisional	−2,035	40

* A percentage is inappropriate: the total trade balance was +£285 million.

† Excluding trade in oil the percentages were 77 and 110 respectively; figures for earlier years are not available on this basis.

Mr. Luard then asked what was the increase in the United Kingdom's exports to the EEC and to the Commonwealth between 1971 and 1974.

'On an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, £2,848 million (107 per cent) and £819 million (43 per cent) respectively,' said Mr. Deakins.

Mr. Luard also asked what was the increase in the United Kingdom's visible deficit with the Commonwealth, the United States of America and the EEC between 1971 and 1974.

'Figures on a balance of payments basis are not available,' said Mr. Deakins. 'On an Overseas Trade Statistics basis the increases in the United Kingdom's crude trade deficits with the Commonwealth, the United States of America and the EEC (8) between 1971 and 1974 were £406 million, £474 million and £1,958 million respectively. The crude trade deficit is the difference between imports cif and exports fob and is an approximate, rather than an accurate measure of the balance of trade in goods because, *inter alia*, of differences in valuation.'

'*What was the increase in the United Kingdom's total trade with the EEC and with the rest of the world between 1971 and 1974?*' *asked Mr. Luard.*

Mr. Deakins replied: 'On a balance of payments basis, total trade (ie the sum of imports and exports) between the United Kingdom and the EEC (8) increased between 1971 and 1974 by £7,248 million (147 per cent); for trade with the rest of the world the increase was £11,507 (93 per cent).'

Trawler 'Ian Fleming'

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked what was the date of the loss of the Hull trawler Ian Fleming*; whether a statutory preliminary inquiry was held and concluded; when the Department of Trade decided to hold a formal inquiry; when the inquiry will be held; and what was the reason for the delay.*

Mr. Shore answered: 'The *Ian Fleming* foundered on 25 December 1973. Following a preliminary inquiry, a decision to hold a formal investigation was announced on 14 October 1974 and the hearing opens at Hull today.

'The delay was due to a decision to give priority to the inquiry into the disappearance of the MT *Gaul* in which there was a heavy loss of life. In view of the capacity of the administrative and judicial machinery this could only be achieved by fixing a later date for the *Ian Fleming* inquiry.'

St. Helens

Mr. Leslie Spriggs asked when the completion of the factory allocated to St. Helens will take place.

'The factory is expected to be completed by the end of the year,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'The number of jobs to be provided depends on the type of industry attracted but is likely to be between 45 and 60. Every opportunity is taken of drawing inquirers' attention to the area. It is part of a special Development Area and so the full range of regional incentives is available.'

Steel and tinplate production

Figures were requested by Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) on the production of steel and tinplate in each of the member states of the EEC and EFTA in 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970 and the latest available year, respectively, expressing the production in millions of tons and in tons per head of population.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION — metric million tons

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1974
Belgium	3.78	5.89	7.18	9.16	12.61	16.23
Denmark	0.12	0.24	0.32	0.41	0.47	0.54
France	8.65	12.59	17.28	19.60	23.77	27.00
Irish Republic	—	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.11
Italy	2.36	5.55	8.46	12.68	17.28	23.86
Luxembourg	2.45	3.23	4.08	4.58	5.46	6.45
Netherlands	0.49	0.98	1.94	3.15	5.04	5.83
United Kingdom	16.55	20.11	24.70	27.44	28.32	22.42
West Germany	12.12	21.34	34.10	36.82	45.04	53.23
Austria	0.95	1.82	3.16	3.22	4.08	4.70
Finland	0.10	0.20	0.27	0.36	1.17	1.65
Norway	0.08	0.17	0.49	0.69	0.87	0.91
Portugal	—	—	—	0.27	0.39	0.40
Sweden	1.46	2.15	3.22	4.73	5.50	5.99
Switzerland	0.12	0.15	0.28	0.35	0.52	0.60

CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION PER HEAD OF POPULATION — metric tons

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1974
Belgium	0.44	0.66	0.78	0.97	1.30	1.66
Denmark	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.11
France	0.21	0.29	0.38	0.40	0.47	0.52
Irish Republic	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04
Italy	0.05	0.12	0.17	0.25	0.32	0.43
Luxembourg	8.17	10.42	12.75	13.88	16.06	18.43
Netherlands	0.05	0.09	0.17	0.26	0.39	0.43
United Kingdom	0.33	0.39	0.47	0.50	0.51	0.40
West Germany	0.24	0.41	0.62	0.62	0.73	0.86
Austria	0.14	0.26	0.45	0.44	0.55	0.62
Finland	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.25	0.35
Norway	0.02	0.05	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.23
Portugal	—	—	—	0.03	0.05	0.05
Sweden	0.21	0.30	0.43	0.61	0.68	0.74
Switzerland	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.09

The 1974 figures of production per head are derived from the 1974 production estimates, divided by the 1973 population estimates.

PRODUCTION OF TINPLATE — million metric tons

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1973
Belgium	0.01	0.09	0.13	0.19	0.27	0.29
France	0.13	0.32	0.60	0.54	0.80	0.85
Italy	0.05	0.04	0.17	0.25	0.33	0.37
Netherlands	n.a.	0.06	0.16	0.25	0.47	0.46
United Kingdom	0.68	0.83	1.21	1.20	1.31	1.28
West Germany	0.21	0.27	0.34	0.53	0.75	0.86
Norway	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.02	0.05	0.05
Portugal	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.05

PRODUCTION OF TINPLATE PER HEAD OF POPULATION — Kilogrammes

	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1974
Belgium	2	10	14	20	27	29
France	3	7	13	11	16	16
Italy	1	1	3	5	6	7
Netherlands	n.a.	6	14	20	36	34
United Kingdom	13	16	23	22	23	23
West Germany	4	5	6	9	12	14
Norway	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	12	14
Portugal	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5

Irish Republic, Luxembourg, Denmark, Austria, Finland and Sweden produce either a negligible amount of, or no, tinplate; no information on tinplate production is available for Switzerland.

Parliament continued

Mr. Wigley also asked for comparative statistics showing the numbers and capacities of steel-making plants in each of the member states of the EEC and EFTA.

Mr. Meacher gave figures for effective steelmaking capacity and the number of steel making plants with a capacity above 1 million tonnes in 1973. Data on the number of smaller steel making plants are not readily available.

	Effective steel-making capacity million metric tons	Number of plants with capacity above 1 million metric tons
Belgium	17.3	8
Denmark	0.5	0
France	28.1	7
Irish Republic	0.2	0
Italy	28.1	5
Luxembourg	6.5	4
Netherlands	6.1	1
United Kingdom	28.9	10
West Germany	58.8	17
Austria	4.7	1
Finland	1.6	0
Norway	0.9	0
Portugal	0.5	0
Sweden	6.4	1
Switzerland	0.6	0

Nationalised shipbuilding companies

Mr. Trotter (Tynemouth) inquired about the number of Department of Industry staff in each grade engaged full-time and part-time in the supervision of the affairs of (a) Govan Shipbuilders, (b) Camell Lairds, (c) Harland and Wolff, and (d) the nationalised companies acquired from Court Line.

Mr. Meacher said: 'Excluding servicing grades the information is as follows:

	Full-time	Part-time
Under Secretary		1
Assistant Secretary	1	
Assistant Solicitor		1
Senior Legal Assistant		1
Principal	2	3
Chief Accountant		1
Higher Executive Officer	1	1
Executive Officer	2	1
Clerical Officer	1	

In the Department's Shipbuilding Policy Division, one Branch under an Assistant Secretary is engaged almost exclusively on work on the shipbuilding companies referred to in the Question and their subsidiaries, and officers in another Branch spend significant amounts of time on the ship-repairing companies acquired from Courtline. Advice is also obtained from officers in the Industrial Development Unit, Finance and Economic Appraisal Division, and from Accountants and Solicitors in my Department.'

Mr. Trotter asked the Secretary of State for Industry, on what dates he received written representations from the Ship Builders and Repairers National Association in response to his suggestion that organisations should offer comments on the issues raised by his discussion paper on nationalisation dated 31 July 1974.

Mr. Benn said: 'I received comments from the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association on the discussion paper on 30 October 1974. There have been other written representations to the Department from the Association on particular points.'

Post Office agency fee

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) wanted to know the profit margin agreed for agency services carried out by the Post Office in each of the last five years.

'Two per cent,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'Under the terms of a new agreement applicable from 1 April 1974 the Post Office is now paid its costs plus a service fee of 4 per cent.'

Post Office deliveries

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) inquired about the percentage of letters delivered on the next working day when posted first class in each of the years sinve the two-tier post was introduced; and the percentage delivered on the next working day in 1950 and 1960, repectively.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'I understand from the Post Office that records were not kept before 1964/65, and that since then improvements in sampling methods and the enlargement of the scope of the sample affect the strict comparability of some year on year figures. Subject to these qualifications the information published in the relevant Post Office Reports and Accounts is as follows:

Fully paid letters	% delivered next working day after posting
1964/65	91
First class letters	
1968/69	94*
1969/70	93
1970/71	94
1971/72	92
1972/73	92
1973/74	89

* Half-year figures from September 1968, when the two-tier post was introduced.

Petroleum Bill

The Secretary of State for Energy was questioned by Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) about the powers available to him to regulate changes in the ownership and control of holders of petroleum production licences.

Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, said: 'At present holders of Petroleum Production Licences require consent to assign or part with any of the rights granted by the licence. There are no powers at present to regulate changes in ownership or control of the licensee himself or to control agreements, such as illustrative or royalty agreements, under which a third party in effect shares in the benefits of the licence. Such changes can in practice have the same effect as assignment or parting with the rights of the licence and can therefore if made without my agreement frustrate the whole purpose of these necessary controls. This has always been recognised by licensees generally. Nevertheless I think it desirable to bring forward measures in the forthcoming Petroleum Bill which will put matters into order by requiring all such changes to have my formal consent. Licensees have been made aware of my intention to do this and I expect that in the meantime any proposals for transactions of these kinds will be discussed with me before implementation. In the event of transactions taking place which do not comply with the Government's requirements, I shall be prepared to ask Parliament to give effect to the relevant provision of the Petroleum Bill as from today.'

Wednesday, 12 February

Meriden Co-operative and Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd.

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked the Secretary of State for Industry when he expects to announce his final decision on providing financial assistance to the Meriden Co-operative and Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. under the Industry Act 1972.

Mr. Benn answered: 'The Government has already offered assistance to the Co-operative subject to the conclusion of certain agreements between the Co-operative and Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd.'

Mr. Stanley also asked why it was necessary to provide a guarantee under the Industry Act 1972 rather than through the ECGD for the £8 million export credit finance required by Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd.

'I shall explain the reasons for this proposal when the Resolution on the Order Paper seeking approval for the provision of further assistance to Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. is debated,' said Mr. Benn.

Mr. Stanley asked about the Secretary of State for Industry's decision on the NRDC application to assist Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. under Section 4(1)(b) of the Development of Inventions Act 1967.

Mr. Benn said that an application made by NRDC in January 1974 to extend assistance for motorcycle development agreed in 1970 was withdrawn by mutual agreement between NVT and NRDC before he had decided whether to give approval. 'I understand that the Corporation are considering making a revised application,' he added.

Mr. Stanley asked if the workers' co-operative at Meriden has registered as a company; and, if so, under what name.

'The Co-operative will operate through a registered company called Synova Motors Ltd.,' said Mr. Benn.

Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Company

Mr. Stanley asked if the Secretary of State for Industry's prior consent is required for the making of wage, salary or other payments in excess of £50 per week to any employee, director or official of the Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co.; for substantial acquisitions and disposals made by the company within its present trading activities; for the declaration or payment of any dividends on the shares of the company and for the taking up or making of loans by the company.

Mr. Heffer replied: 'It is not the practice to disclose details of agreements with companies in receipt of selective financial assistance. Exeptionally, however, and with the consent of the company I can say that the formal agreement between my Department and Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Ltd. provides among other things that the company shall not without consulting us in relation thereto make any general increase in wages paid to its employees, and shall not without our written consent:

a sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of (save in the normal course of trading) the whole or any substantial part of its undertaking nor its assets;
b make any distribution to its members;
c borrow or (except in the ordinary course of business) lend.

'Scottish Daily News'

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked for a list of the conditions intimated to the Scottish Daily News Action Committee as necessary of fulfilment before sufficient funds will be released to launch the newspaper, indicating which of these conditions have not been fulfilled.

Mr. Benn replied: 'The text of my letter of 25 July to the Chairman of the Workers Action Committee, in which the conditions attached to the Government's offer of a loan were set out, was published in *Trade and Industry* on 1 August 1974. These conditions which should be regarded as a whole have not so far been fulfilled, but the offer stands open.'

The motor industry

Mr. Michael Heseltine (Henley) inquired about possible plans to nationalise the British motor industry.

'The motor vehicle industry includes hundreds of firms and there are no plans to nationalise it,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Where however a motor vehicle company or any other company receives selective financial assistance from public funds the Government reserves the right in appropriate cases to provide such assistance in the form of share capital.'

British Leyland

Mr. Heseltine also asked if further aid for British Leyland would be provided under the Industry Act 1972, and from the resources of the NEB.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The form, extent and sources of Government funds to be provided to British Leyland for its longer-term programme will be determined when the team under Sir Don Ryder has reported to Government and the report has been fully considered.'

Ford Motor Co.

Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) asked for details of the number of meetings between the Secretary of State and the management of Ford Motor Co. relating to their investment policies in Great Britain and Europe generally.

'The Ford Motor Co. have maintained a high level of investment in the United Kingdom for many years,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Over the past 10 years their investment has averaged some £40 million annually, which is more than double their profits after tax, and I understand that their planned investment in 1975 will be about £50 million. The company's investment plans were among items discussed between Ford's senior management and officials of my Department on 11 September 1974. I have had no direct contact with Ford's management recently on this subject.'

Department of Industry staffing

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry the number of staff in the headquarters of his department in the grade of (a) deputy secretary, (b) assistant secretary and (c) principal.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following figures for staff in post in the headquarters on 1 January 1975:

a Deputy Secretary, 9
b Assistant Secretary, 53
c Principal, 143

The figures include four deputy secretaries, 12 assistant secretaries and 47 principals in the establishments, finance, economics and statistics and other divisions in the Department of Industry which provide a common service to the Departments of Trade, and Prices and Consumer Protection.

American-owned companies in Great Britain

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked how many of the foreign-owned companies operating in Great Britain are American.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The latest available information is that at the end of 1971 there were in the United Kingdom about 1,450 branches, subsidiaries and associates directly affiliated to American companies, excluding any in oil, banking and insurance. This estimate was published in Table 44 of Business Monitor M 4, overseas transactions, a copy of which is in the Library. A separate estimate is not available for the number of subsidiary companies indirectly affiliated to American companies.'

Oil related jobs in Scotland

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked how many contracts have been won from development of Scotland's oil resources by companies located in each region of Scotland, and how many jobs have been created in each such region as a direct result of the initiatives of the Offshore Supplies Office since its inception.

Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, told him that the number of new oil related jobs created in each region of Scotland since the end of 1970 was as follows:

Highlands and Islands	1,650
Easter Ross and Inverness	4,200
Aberdeen area	6,850
Firth of Tay	650
East Central Region	2,000
West Central Region	900

'Figures for contracts won are not readily available nor is it possible to quantify the role played by the Offshore Supplies Office in this respect,' said Mr. Smith.

Bread prices

Mr. Ron Lewis (Carlisle) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what action she is taking on bread prices following her department's announcement on 10 January.

Mrs. Williams's answer is published on page 419.

Thursday, 13 February

Bear Brand Ltd.

Mr. Stanley asked if an application has been received for assistance under the Industry Act from Bear Brand Ltd.

Mr. Heffer said: 'Bear Brand Ltd. made a request for assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act. After the most careful consideration we have not felt able to accede to their request.'

Royal Imperial typewriter plants

Mr. Stanley asked when the report of the independent consultants examining the viability of the Royal Imperial typewriter plants in Leicester and Hull would be completed, and by what dates these plants are scheduled to be closed.

Mr. Meacher answered that the consultants have been commissioned to report by 21 February, which is also the closure date for the two plants.

Cable and Wireless Ltd.

Mr. Russell Kerr (Hounslow, Feltham and Heston) asked for a statement on the operation of Cable and Wireless Ltd.

Mr. Benn answered: 'Yes Sir. Social Audit Ltd., made allegations of incompetence on the part of the management of Cable and Wireless Ltd. These were addressed to the "private systems" part of the Company's business, and especially to the loss made by a subsidiary in Hong Kong: Coltronics Ltd. These allegations have been the subject of a detailed examination by my Department. As far as Coltronics are concerned, the facts are that a loss of some £2¼ million was sustained in 1973/74 by the company mainly as a result of its undertaking a contract which was beyond its ability to fulfil. The explanation tendered to me by the chairman shows that the undertaking was entered into by the then general manager of the subsidiary in disobedience of written instructions requiring him to obtain the prior approval of his board for a transaction of this magnitude. No approval was sought or given.

'Social Audit's further main allegation was that Cable and Wireless Ltd.'s accounts for the year ending 31 March 1974 did not disclose the fact of these losses and so did not give a true and fair view of the company's affairs for the purposes of the Companies Acts. I am however advised that the company's accounts satisfy statutory requirements and conform to accounting conventions. Nevertheless full details of the Coltronics losses will be given in the 1974/75 accounts and future accounts will give improved information about other private systems' business.

'On Social Audit's more general observation that the company's private systems ventures are not profitable, I note that these ventures were started fairly recently as part of a policy of diversification within the telecommunications field which it will take time to develop successfully. It would be premature to conclude that the company's policy of extending its activities is misconceived but it will be necessary for the company, and the Government, to keep them under close review. To enable this to be done arrangements have been made to improve the regular flow of information from the company to the Department.

'It would of course be wrong to judge the performance of the company's management by reference solely to the result so far of its private system ventures, or of Coltronics in particular. In such a business some failures are unavoidable and the test of the company's competence is its overall performance. The group's profits have risen from £5.6 million 1971-72 to £14.7 million in 1973-74. I regard this as satisfactory.'

Foreign-owned companies

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked how many people are employed by foreign-owned companies operating in Great Britain; the productive capacity and the proportion of UK exports manufactured by these companies.

Parliament continued

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The information available on employment and output relates only to enterprises in manufacturing industry and the latest figures are for 1968. In that year foreign controlled enterprises in United Kingdom manufacturing industry employed 704,000 people and their net output (the value added to the materials by the process of production) was £1.9 thousand million. These figures were published in Table 43 of Part 158 Summary tables: Enterprise analyses of the Report on the 1968 Census of Production, a copy of which is in the Library. No information is available on the productive capacity of these enterprises, as opposed to the output from the use of that capacity. In 1972 approximately 23 per cent of total exports were accounted for by direct exports of foreign-controlled subsidiaries and branches in the United Kingdom in manufacturing industry. Information on direct exports of foreign controlled enterprises was published in Tables 56 and 57 of Business Monitor M4, Overseas Transactions, a copy of which is in the Library.'

Mr. Hoyle also asked what proportion of the profits of foreign-owned companies is retained in the UK.

Mr. Deakins said that the proportion of profits retained in the United Kingdom by subsidiaries and associates directly affiliated to foreign companies excluding oil and insurance has varied from year to year; over the four years 1970 to 1973 it averaged about three-fifths. Dividends remitted and unremitted profits of subsidiaries and associates of foreign companies were published in Table 20 of *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1963-73* and further detail was published in Table 11 of Business Monitor M4, Overseas Transactions.

Government assistance for private industry

Mr. John Evans (Newton) asked how much public money, in total and per head of population, has been given to assist private industry in Scotland, Wales and each of the eight English regions served by an Economic Planning Council in each of the last 10 years.

'Records of assistance to private industry are not kept by planning region and I regret that this information is not available,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'Assistance over the 10 years 1964/5–1973/4, in total and by head of population, was £5,460 million and £10.2 respectively. The information for each of the years is as follows:

£ million at historic prices and net of repayments

	1964/65	1965/66	1966/67	1967/68	1968/69
	£	£	£	£	£
Assistance to private industry	71	87	96	470	757
Per head of population	1.4	1.7	1.8	8.8	14.1

	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1973/74	1973/74	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assistance to private industry	896	921	819	647	696	5,460
Per head of population	16.7	17.1	15.1	12.4	12.8	10.2*

* 10 year average

Removal grants

Mr. Clement Freud asked how many companies have qualified for removal grants to assisted areas in each of the last three years.

Mr. MacKenzie said that the number of removal grants offered in the last three financial years to companies moving to the assisted areas was:

	1972-73		1973-74		1974-75 (up to 31 December 1974)	
	No.	Value (£'000)	No.	Value (£'000)	No.	Value (£'000)
Industry Act 1972: Section 7						
Removal grants	24	208	99	1,170	87	1,957
Service industry removal grants	—	—	23	470	56	2,311
Local Employment Act 1972: Section 4						
Removal grants	59	1,515	11	718	—	—

Removal grants under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 superseded those previously available under Section 4 of the Local Employment Act 1972. Service industry removal grants were introduced on 13 June 1973.

Mr. MacKenzie was also asked, by Mr. Geraint Howells (Cardigan), how many companies have qualified for removal grants to Wales in each of the last five years.

He gave the following information.

	1970-71		1971-72		1972-73		1973-74		1974-75 (up to 31 December 1974)	
	No.	Value (£'000)	No.	Value (£'000)	No.	Value (£'000)	No.	Value (£'000)	No.	Value (£'000)
Local Employment Acts 1960 to 1972										
Removal grants	10	386	16	252	16	862	5	464	—	—
Section 7 Industry Act 1972										
Removal grants	—	—	—	—	6	18	22	312	13	200
Service industry removal grants	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	155	13	160

Bankruptcies due to VAT

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) asked how many companies have been declared bankrupt in the past 12 months whose bankruptcies were attributable to the non-payment of VAT.

'There were 1,394 compulsory liquidations and 2,325 creditors voluntary liquidations of companies in the year ended 31 December 1974,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Company failures are seldom only attributable to one specific debt but I understand that in 1974 HM Customs & Excise presented 25 petitions for compulsory winding up for non-payment of VAT.'

Dumping

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what action he has taken since March 1974 to combat dumping of goods by foreign countries in the UK.

Mr. Deakins said: 'Since March 1974 two provisional charges to duty have been imposed under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969. A number of applications for anti-dumping action are currently under consideration.'

Transfer of Companies House and ECGD to Cardiff

Mr. R. B. Cant (Stoke-on-Trent Central) asked: 'What effects have resulted from the transfer of Companies House and the ECGD to Cardiff?'

'Neither move has yet taken place,' said Mr. Deakins. 'The transfer of work from Companies House is expected to start during 1976, and to be completed by the end of the year. The move of part of ECGD is not expected to be completed until 1979.'

Friday, 14 February

Exports of scraps

Mr. Wigley asked for a statement concerning the present and future control of scrap exports to other member states in the EEC.

Mr. Meacher said, 'The European Treaties establish unrestricted trade in scrap between member States. With the ending of the transitional period provided for the UK by the Treaty of Accession, restrictions on trade in scrap between the UK and other member countries have now been removed. The operative dates were 1 January 1973 for non ferrous scrap and 1 January 1975 for ferrous scrap. If significant shortages were to recur in the UK, the Government would seek whatever remedy seemed most appropriate and if necessary seek a derogation from the Treaty.'

Govan Shipbuilders

Mr. Trotter asked for an estimate of the turnover and profit or loss for Govan Shipbuilders in the current year.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'The latest year for which figures are available is the year ended 27 December 1974. The company estimate that the work done during that year had a contract value of about £23 million. Losses are expected to be about £5¾ million. Audited accounts should be available by about May 1975.'

Court Line companies

Mr. Trotter inquired about progress in the arrangements to govern the provision of information of former Court Line companies.

Mr. Meacher said: 'Arising from the Letter of Understanding of 19 September 1974 with each of the shipbuilding and ship-repairing companies of the former Court Line group, my Department now receives cash flows, balance sheets, profit and loss accounts and production figures on a regular basis. Additionally, there is very frequent contact between the officials of my Department and the companies in what is obviously an on-going situation.'

R & D contracts

Mr. Clement Freud asked for a table itemising the number of projects and the total and average of grants made in each year since the introduction of the Science and Technology Act 1965.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'Expenditure under the powers contained in the Science and Technology Act 1965 embraces a wide variety of programmes and the information is not available in the form requested. Expenditure on the Industrial Research and Development and Technological and Industrial Sponsorship Programmes, and in support of International Computers (Holdings) Ltd., which together include the bulk of my Department's expenditure under these powers, is as follows:

£m outturn prices

	1965/6	1966/7	1967/8	1968/9	1969/70	1970/1	1971/2	1972/3	1973/4
IREs and Computer Aided Design Centre	7.5	8.4	10.3	9.8	9.8	11.0	11.2	12.6	13.2
R & D Contracts and other extra-mural expenditure	3.4	3.7	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.3	7.3
Technological and Industrial Sponsorship	0.4	1.8	8.5	4.9	4.5	4.7	3.0	5.0	5.2
International Computers (Holdings) Ltd.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8.8	9.5
Totals	11.3	13.9	23.1	18.7	18.6	20.3	18.6	30.7	35.2
Total	190.4								
Annual average	21.2								

'The powers in the Act also cover support to the Agricultural, Medical, Natural Environment, Science and Social Science Research Councils (all of which are the responsibility of the Department of Education and Science), and some expenditure by other Government Departments, including energy research by the Department of Energy and work on weights and measures by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.'

Textiles

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would consider import restrictions on textile products currently affecting the West Riding woollen textile industry.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'My Rt. Hon Friend is ready to consider action under the provisions of the GATT Multifibre Arrangement against imports of wool textiles should these become disruptive to the West Riding woollen textile industry. The representations of industry about imports of products based on acrylic fibres have been taken into account in preparing the mandates for the EEC Commission to negotiate restraint arrangements on behalf of the Community with the principal low-cost suppliers.'

Mr. Cryer also asked for a list of measures available to assist textile firms in the intermediate areas.

Mr. Heffer said: 'The main measures available are Regional Development Grants for the provision of new buildings and the adaptation of existing buildings and selective assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act. Firms which qualify for assistance under the Wool Textile Industry Scheme, a special scheme involving assistance under Section 8 of the Industry Act, are not also eligible for assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act. Where a project is eligible for both Section 8 assistance and Regional Development Grants, the payment of Section 8 assistance is net of any payment of Regional Development Grants.'

Mr. Cryer then asked the number of spinning mills and weaving mills closed in 1973, 1974 and up to the last convenient date in 1975 in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Mr. Meacher said: 'The following figures on closures in West Yorkshire of wool textile firms are based on returns from firms liable to pay levy under Article 4(a) of the Wool Textile Industry (Export Promotion Levy) Order 1970 and the Wool Textile Industry (Scientific Research Levy) Order 1970, ie manufacturers as distinct from merchants. They are based on the date when a closure was notified to the administrators of the levies which is often in arrears of actual closure:

1973	1974	1975 (to date)
22	22	7

'These closures cover all wool textile manufacturing activities, since separate information on spinning and weaving is not available.'

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901. Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

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Export Cartels, a report prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Committee of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices. (89 pages. Available from HMSO. 1974. £2.00. ISBN 92 64 11271 5.) This study surveys the results of replies received from member countries to a questionnaire. During the synthesis of the findings of this inquiry the Committee had also taken into consideration official documents and reports emanating from the member countries and a further report issued by UNCTAD. Consequently, the information recorded in this publication reflects official sources although the last chapter indicates the various writers' opinions on export cartels which supplement the Committee's verdict on their limitations. This survey reflects the situation as at mid-1973. In the first chapter, the opening paragraphs clarify the legal definitions of the different types of cartel. It then examines the legal provisions in OECD member countries which are relevant to national and international export cartels whether 'pure' relating only to foreign markets, or 'mixed' where their influence extends to both foreign and domestic markets. Chapter II contains general factual information on the nature and extent of export cartels from six member countries able to provide the data requested. They are the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States. The text is supplemented by tables showing the number of export cartels, number of participating firms, structural features of the cartels, types of restrictions operated, the markets to which they relate and their market shares. Additional data on these topics is quoted in the annexes to the report for the countries in question. The penultimate chapter describes interesting actual examples of different categories of export cartels quoting details of international, national, and mixed cartels. The book finishes with a general review of the economic effects of export cartels especially with regard to their influence on international trade.

The industrial policy of France. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (132 pages. Available from HMSO. 1974. £1.60. ISBN 92 64 11242 1.) Based on information presented to the Industry Committee of the OECD by the French authorities, this report begins with an investigation of the prospects for French industrial policy. European prospects and trade relations with countries outside the EEC are considered as well as national orientations and energy policy. France relies more than most OECD countries on formal planning and an institutional framework in pursuit of her industrial planning objectives, and an examination is made, in part two of the report, of improvements in this institutional framework. Renovation and strengthening of the industrial fabric and improvement of the general framework for industrial activity are taking place in France at present and are given due consideration. The third and final section deals with the problem of securing a balanced industrial development in terms of maintaining the main economic equilibria, improvement of the environment and the contribution of industrial development to social well-being. This report is the fourth in a series on the industrial policies of OECD member countries and, like the others, provides basic material on policy instruments and issues as seen by those responsible for dealing with them.

Business in Japan: a guide to Japanese business practice and procedure edited by P. Norbury and G. Bownas. (351 pages. The Macmillan Press Ltd. 1974. £4.95. SBN 333 15708 7.) This book, which is based on the Japan Air Lines business booklet series *Business in Japan: guidelines for exporters*, aims to identify the problems facing foreign businessmen in their dealings with Japan and to provide practical help and guidance for them. It can usefully be read in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board's *Hints to Businessmen: Japan.* The 13 chapters cover aspects of Japanese business life and include the market, business and the law, banking, joint ventures, trading companies and business etiquette and behaviour. Additionally a supplement entitled 'A Businessman's guide to Japan' gives details of banks, climate and clothing, currency, dentists, drinking, hospitals, national holidays, office hours and other topics of interest for day-to-day existence. Appendices give names and addresses of Japanese and European trading companies, some foreign banks and all embassies in Tokyo while a selective bibliography enables the reader to further his knowledge of Japan. Contributors to this book are drawn from Japanese industrial and academic life and include Charles Smith, Far East editor of the *Financial Times* and G. Holdsworth who is a member of the Japan Trade Advisory Group which advises the British Overseas Trade Board.

An economic analysis of the effects of regulating hire-purchase by R. J. Allard. HM Treasury. Government Economic Service. Occasional Papers No. 9. (100 pages. HMSO. 1974. £3. ISBN 0 11 630285 2.) This report starts with a fairly extensive theoretical analysis of the effects of the level of HP controls and of changes of controls on the number and value of new contracts extended. This outline is then applied to a simple model of the demand for both new and used cars and a time profile of repayment of credit extended is developed. This is followed by an estimation of the effects of the models for new contracts and repayments on the new credit and loans extended, repayments, debts outstanding and net cash flow. One particularly useful appendix compares the changes in HP activity following the abolition of controls in July 1971 with the predictions of the model. While the report is considering contracts relating primarily to new and used cars, the model could, in principle, readily be applied to other consumer durables, in the context of an analysis of the impact of HP controls on total consumer expenditure. The study attempts to assess changes in HP controls in relation to the number of contracts extended, the total value of loans made through such contracts, the pattern of loan repayments and the resulting net cash flow to users of HP. No attempt is made to investigate the degree to which taking up loans on HP is complementary to or a substitute for the use of personal liquid reserves, and no investigation is made of the service of the funds which finance houses make available to users of HP.

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BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

Rhône-Alpes: a growing market for heavy machinery and machine tools

by F. C. D. Sargeant, CMG, Consul General, British Consulate-General, Lyon

How many businessmen passing through Lyon on their way South to a Mediterranean holiday realise that this city, the capital of the Rhône-Alpes region, is at the heart of the second most important industrial area in France? In fact, Rhône-Alpes has been tipped by some economists not only to rival the leading area – the Paris basin – but actually to overtake it in industrial importance in the long term.

The Rhône-Alpes region consists of eight departments – the Rhône, Isère, Loire, Ain, Savoie, Haute-Savoie, Drôme and Ardèche. Between them these departments have a total population of 4.6 million (or 9.1 per cent of the total French population) living mainly in the big towns of Lyon, Saint-Etienne and Grenoble. This figure is expected to reach six million by 1985.

Current and projected major building and communications developments

In Lyon, the only French city other than Paris with a population over a million, a massive redevelopment of the town centre is taking place at the Part-Dieu, on the left bank of the Rhône. Building is well advanced of a 'decision making' centre for the local government authorities, prestige business offices, with a commercial shopping precinct. Hotels and a new main line railway station are also planned. Building is also well in hand of a city-wide modern underground railway which will link the Part-Dieu with the older central part of the city and the eastern suburbs. The line should be in operation by 1977-78.

A new satellite town, 30 km east of Lyon, called Isle d'Abeau, is under construction to take the overspill of the inhabitants of Lyon. It is expected to have a population of some 200,000 by the end of the century. Development of industrial sites near to this town and on an adjacent site at Loyettes on the Plaine de l'Ain, whose choice as the site for the Region's second oil refinery is expected soon, will also provide many jobs.

The region also has a fast growing network of motorways which already link Lyon with Paris and Marseille and will by the end of 1978 give easy access to Switzerland and Italy.

In the spring of 1975, a new international airport at Satolas – some 30 km east of Lyon – will come into service and a fast new rail link is projected which will reduce the travelling time from Lyon to Paris to two hours. A canal link between the Rhône and Rhine waterways linking the Mediterranean to the North Sea is also projected for the early 1980's.

These major developments are generating and will continue to generate an enormous amount of activity in the region's public works and building areas and go a long way to stimulate the growth of its industries.

Rhône-Alpes industries

Most of the Rhône-Alpes industries are in and around the major towns of Lyon, Grenoble, Saint-Etienne, Annecy and the Arve Valley. These industries make a substantial contribution to overall French output. Latest figures (1972) show that Rhône-Alpes accounts for :

– 20 per cent of the nation's textile production.
– 14.4 per cent of the paper industry.
– 13 per cent of the chemical industry.
– 20 per cent of the plastics industry.

The metallurgical and mechanical engineering industries are the region's main activities

Metallurgy, metal working, mechanical and electrical engineering are the region's leading activities. Between them, they employ some 300,000 out of the region's active labour force of two million. The following details illustrate the relative strength of the various sectors which will provide opportunities for the increase of sales of British machine tools and heavy machinery.

	Number of employees	% of total work-force
Metals Production of high grade and special steels and aluminium	23,000	7%
Subcontracting Foundry-work, die-stamping, turning forging, rolling, stamping, boilermaking, general engineering	61,000	20%
Mechanical engineering Machine-tools, equipment for chemicals, oil industry, paper board, textile industry, handling equipment, building trade, contractors' plant, etc.	53,000	17%
Motor vehicles industry Heavy goods vehicles, special purposes vehicles, coachwork, construction plant	54,000	17%
Electrical engineering Generating and distribution equipment, electrical plant for industry, domestic appliances, telecommunications and semi-conductors	55,000	18%

The region's engineering accounts for about 18 per cent of total national production; non-ferrous ores and metals 17½ per cent; primary stage metal processing and electrical engineering each 16½ per cent. Turnover (net of French VAT) in 1970 in the leading branches was :

– metallurgy and metal processing : Francs 9,500 m.
– machinery, vehicles and miscellaneous : Francs 10,100 m.
– electrical engineering and electronics : Francs 4,400 m.

Among leading firms responsible for this output are Automobiles Berliet (France's largest heavy truck manufacturer), Merlin-Gérin, Delle-Alsthom, Cables de Lyon (electrical

engineering), Compagnie Electro-Mécanique, Crouzet (electronic engineering), Caterpillar, Bennes Marrel (manufacturers of public works equipment) and Creusot-Loire (metallurgy).

The region is also endowed with the largest number of public and private research centres in these sectors after the Paris region.

The future for the region's metallurgical and mechanical industries

Although much of the future growth of industry in the region is expected to take place in the petrochemical field, the machinery and motor vehicle sectors (in particular heavy lorries and public transport vehicles) will continue to attract investment. In December 1974 it was announced that the French motor vehicle industry would receive from the French Government's Economic and Social Development Fund a 15 year loan of Francs 1,450 million (approx. £135 million) to permit a regrouping of the major firms and a general reorganisation of the industry. Under the terms of this loan, Peugeot is to merge with Citroen (which made heavy losses during 1974) and the state controlled Régie Renault will take control of Automobiles Berliet.

All these firms have important manufacturing operations in the Rhône-Alpes region, especially Berliet. This firm, which has its main factory at Vénissieux (a suburb of Lyon), recently decided to increase its labour force of 20,000 by a further 1,000 and to double the size of its iron foundry to meet orders already obtained or confidently expected from China, Iran and the oil-producing and developing countries. Since Berliet subcontracts 60 per cent of its work mainly to local firms it plays an important rôle in the economic life of the region. In 1974 Berliet accounted for 29 per cent of the sales of heavy lorries, special purpose vehicles and buses in France.

Saviem, a subsidiary company of the Régie Renault (and which took 21 per cent of the French market for heavy vehicles in 1974) has an assembly plant at Annonay. Peugeot and Citroen (making mainly passenger cars) have important factories around Saint-Etienne and Renault has factories in Vénissieux and subsidiary companies making components, etc. in Annecy.

On the heavy engineering scene, Framatome (the Creusot-Loire Westinghouse consortium) and Neyrpic (a subsidiary of the Delle-Alsthom group) have notable orders for nuclear reactor power stations both from the Electricité de France and more recently from Iran. Some of the enormous pressure vessels (weighing 350 tons each) for these stations will be built in the region.

At present Rhône-Alpes provides only 10 per cent of total French exports but even so is in second place after the Paris region. It is an obvious area, given adequate productive investment, in which to develop and increase manufacturing potential so as to provide those additional exports which France needs so badly to overcome her current trade deficit.

The mechanical and engineering industries are among those well placed to meet this challenge. These developments will in

Export publicity for industry

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NEI 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr D. de M. Guilfoyle, OBE, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: Mr T. Cooban, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, Block D, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DF (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St. Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

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Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr H. V. Tillotson, MVO, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DQ (Tel: 031-556 8501) District Office: 314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow C2 (Tel: 041-221 5670 – Telex 77583).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, 42 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3PY (Tel: 28066 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-938 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

their turn stimulate demand for new machinery and machine tools, including numerically controlled machine tools.

Rhône-Alpes machine tool industry

There are 48 machine tool manufacturers in the region, ranging from big well-known firms such as Gambin, Ernault-Somua, Berthiez and Cincinnati to small firms making highly specialised machines. These firms employ 4,900 or 18 per cent of the French national labour force in this sector and account for 22 per cent of the total French output of machine tools. No regional production statistics are available but an indication of the industry's strength is gained by studying its export performance.

The region's imports and exports of machine tools

In 1973 total exports of machine tools from the region were double the 1972 figure and reached Francs 215 million, compared with imports of Francs 149 million. This underlines the capacity of the local machine tool industry to respond quickly to the export challenge. Imports dropped in the same period, especially from the UK where our sales to the region fell from Francs 11.6 million in 1972 to 5.4 million. Imports from the US, on the other hand, were boosted by the fall in the world value of the US Dollar. Germany, with 34 per cent, Switzerland and Italy, each with 18 per cent of the French import market, accounted for the lion's share of imports. Part of their success is due to the proximity and ease of access to the market.

Rhône-Alps imports and exports of machine tools in the last two years are as follows :

Thousands of Francs

	Imports into Region		Exports from Region	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
Russia	..	..	6,041	38,552
West Germany	60,440	52,233	17,200	21,421
Italy	36,507	28,627	14,205	19,643
Switzerland	28,668	28,227	8,117	8,226
UK	11,614	5,440	..	..
Spain	7,085	5,276	8,766	9,140
USA	8,893	14,133	4,415	8,944
Belgium-Luxembourg	..	..	4,131	6,434
Romania	..	..	853	8,933
All countries	165,894	149,246	106.147	214,901

The use of numerically controlled (NC) machine tools

The use of numerically controlled machine tools in the region is not very widespread at present but it is growing in importance. A special body, the 'Centre d'Etudes de la Commande Numérique' has been set up in Lyon by leading professional engineering and applied science research establishments to promote the use of NC machines. A recent study made by this body reveals that of some 2,000 NC machine tools in France, 200 are installed in factories in the Rhône-Alpes region. One in three firms interviewed in the region planned to train operators and it is estimated that an additional seven firms a year will install NC machines. This should see a doubling of the number in use in Rhône-Alpes between now and 1980.

Most users have bought the NC machine without recourse to bank loans or leasing. Main sales have taken place in drilling machines which account for about one-third of total sales. Predictions in the coming years are that the main demand will be for lathes. Two important French manufacturers of NC machines manufacture locally: CNMP Berthiez at Givors and Ernault-Somua at Saint-Etienne.

British machine tools are generally well known in the region but there is room to increase sales

Most of the factories visited by the Commercial Staff of the British Consulate-General in Lyon have British machine tools and machinery of some kind; but, as the import statistics reveal, it is the German, Swiss and Italian after the French manufacturers who are the leading suppliers. Part of the explanation for this is that British industry is sometimes not able to supply the needs of French users of some of the bigger machines. An example of this was the recent requirement by a leading French manufacturer of turbines and nuclear energy pressure vessels for a vertical lathe 16 m. diameter capacity and an acceptable load of 400 tons and a boring machine with a 200 mm. diameter spindle, 12½ m. horizontal travel and a 5 m. vertical travel. These were subsequently ordered from West Germany.

British manufacturers already selling in France generally find that representation by an exclusive agent who has showrooms, good after-sales service facilities and the support of technical staff with company training is the best arrangement. Some British firms have sent a British sales and service engineer to live in the region. In this way he can provide prompt maintenance services as well as look for new business and keep abreast of new styling trends (the French for example attach considerable importance to changes in design and colour).

Training courses in the UK offered to the right people can also pay dividends. A good illustration of this is that of the French manager of a company in Annemasse who, as a young man, went to England and was trained on British machines : today his factory is almost entirely equipped with the British firm's lathes.

Among the comments and criticism heard from French users of British machine tools is regrettably the timeworn complaint about unreliable delivery dates. To this must now be added the more recent phenomenon of frequent price increases which occur between the date of ordering and delivery. These are serious handicaps, even though advances in prices are worldwide. One cannot, therefore, overstress the importance of quoting realistic and reliable delivery dates, sticking to them and talking out the pricing situation fully in advance of accepting orders.

Specialised exhibitions also provide a useful means to trade promotion. A biennal machine tool exhibition is held in Paris. The next one takes place in 1976. But of more immediate interest is the 1975 World Machine Tool Exhibition to be held in Paris where 75 British firms, under the joint sponsorship of the Department of Trade and the Machine Tools Trade Association (MTTA), will take part. There are also some useful regional exhibitions which should not be overlooked, such as SAMODEC (Salons de Machine-Outils du Décolletage), which is held annually in April at La Roche-sur-Foron in Haute-Savoie in the heart of the French gear-cutting industry. In 1974, 500 exhibitors, specialising in gear-cutting machinery and accessories, from 15 countries took part.

The organisation of inward missions to the UK of some 15 French users of machine tools was arranged by MTTA and the British Embassy in Paris in the spring of 1974. These included French firms from the Rhône-Alpes region and the mission was highly successful. This will probably be repeated.

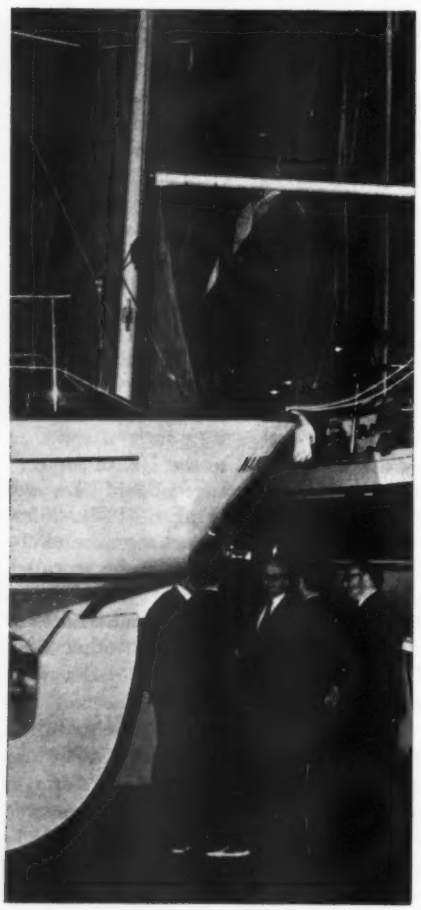
Finally, British manufacturers and their French agents should not hesitate to make use of the commercial services of the Consulate-General, not only in Lyon but in other main centres in France. The Commercial Staff in the Consulate are constantly visiting end-users of British machine tools and are able to identify potential customers and report to British industry and their French agents names of firms which may be considered as possible regional sub-agents, stockists or maintenance engineers. Newcomers to France are, however, reminded that their first approach to this market should be made through their Regional Office of the Department of Trade.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Britain on crest of wave at Paris boat show

From Clive Almond, Second Secretary Commercial, British Embassy, Paris: There are at present over 400,000 pleasure boats in use in France and until recently the market was growing at 15 per cent a year. During the past year, however, the economic difficulties in France, along with the rest of Europe, coupled with soaring fuel costs, have resulted in a slight downturn in demand. Even so, boat sales in France in 1974 totalled nearly 29,000 which was still a commendable 7 per cent increase.

These facts all helped to make the competition at last month's Paris International Boat Show all the fiercer. They also indirectly helped the sales of British boats and equipment because potential buyers were prepared to shop around before placing their orders – and it was evident that the British products on show were able to undercut significantly the prices of overseas competition.



The annual pilgrimage to the 1975 Paris Boat Show (*picture*) was in full sail 9-20 January and the total number of visitors topped the 300,000 mark. In all, there were 400 stands from 20 different countries.

For the third year running, the SBBNF sponsored a joint venture in this event with the support of BOTB. A total of 22 British companies participated on the grouped stands which compared with 16 firms at the previous show and demonstrated the popularity of this event with British companies and the ever increasing attractions of exporting to France.

The salon was, as usual, strictly sectionalised and there were large British stands in the power boat and sailing boat, chandlery and equipment sections. There was also a most successful stand in the charter and hire boat section (Blakes) which has a steadily increasing clientele from France, Holland and Switzerland.

Among the firms which did particularly well were Winner Boats, which sells to France through a British-owned company, Yachting Park, situated at Golfe Juan on the Mediterranean coast; Fletcher Boats, whose French agent was reported to have booked large orders for his regional distributors; Shetland Boats also sold several boats; and Jack Powles was more than pleased with having sold its exhibition boat, the most expensive British craft on display, and worth over £35,000, as well as two others from the range.

This year, with all the talk of energy crises, sailing boats came back into their own and most of the British firms showing with established outlets in France reported excellent sales. Of particular note were the sales, made by Russel Marine, of the Jaguar range of yachts; and Macwester Marine, which sold three of its Rowan Rose class yachts on a first visit to France.

Among the equipment manufactures, Neco Marine, with its range of electronic navigational aids, was the most successful. It doubled last year's turnover in France at the salon. In addition, and even after a slow start, Jack Holt with masts and sails; Simpson and Lawrence with boat fittings; and Whale Pumps all said how satisfied they were with the results of the exhibition.

Britain has an unchallenged reputation as a nation of sailors and for the quality of her boats and associated equipment. This reputation and the competitive price at which these products can be offered on the French market mean that the demand for British-made goods should be as strong as ever in the year ahead. It is also probable that British companies will return in even greater numbers to the Paris show next January.

Antiquarian event is well booked up

An exhibition, 'Book Trade Display'd', illustrating book and print selling from the 17th century, will be a feature of this year's Antiquarian Book Fair, to be held at London's Europa Hotel, 17-19 June.

The exhibition comprises some 60 paintings, prints, caricatures, cartoons, etchings and ephemera, loaned by members of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, most of whom are exhibitors at the fair.

A record number of over 100 applications for space at this year's fair has been received from leading dealers from all over the UK, as well as from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA, it is reported. This is the 17th annual fair to be organised by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association.

Hanover bulletin

Hanover Fair 1975: Exhibitors at this year's event are reminded that copy for the Technical Information Bulletin published by the Fair Authority can be accepted at the Press Centre up to and including 1 March.

Exhibitors are reminded that this is an excellent opportunity for advertising their exhibits and it is free of charge. After the Fair has opened, issues of the Bulletin are circulated daily throughout the Fair. Details should be sent to Deutsche Messe und Ausstellungs AG, 3 Hanover, Messegelaende (for the attention of Herr Degenhard).

Exhibitors and visitors chat on a busy British carpet stand at last month's Heimtex in Frankfurt. Some 100 United Kingdom companies participated in three BOTB-supported joint ventures at this international fair for household textiles and floor coverings.

British pavilions being considered for Plovdiv . . .

Plovdiv International Trade Fair, 3-10 September: the Department of Trade will organise a British Pavilion at this event, provided there is sufficient support from British industry.

The fair is the largest single trade event in Bulgaria and as such it offers a unique opportunity to meet prospective buyers, end users and other influential people in Bulgarian industry and commerce, including Government ministers.

The fair covers the full range of capital and consumer goods. Following the signing of the Long Term agreement on the Development of Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical co-operation in May 1974, the following sectors were highlighted as opportunities for mutually advantageous co-operation between the UK and Bulgaria: agricultural machinery; chemical industry; construction industry; electronics and electronics components; engineering industry; food processing and packaging; light industry, including office machinery; machine tools; mechanical handling and containerisation; metallurgical industries.

Further information is available from Miss L. Haley, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7213). The deadline for receipt of applications for space is 21 March.

. . . and Bucharest

Bucharest: International Technical Exhibition, Technoexpo, 12-21 October: the Department of Trade will organise a British Pavilion at this event provided there is sufficient support from British industry.

The categories of the exhibits are equipments, machines and accessories for: silviculture; wood primary processing; furniture industry; joinery door and window frames; paper industry; cultivating, harvesting, industrial processing and transporting the accessory products of woods agriculture; food industry; packaging and transporting the agro-alimentary products.

Measuring and control apparatus for woodworking and paper industry; wooden containers, cardboard and paper for wooden, paper, cardboard products, building materials and installations; transports; installations and equipment for the production of building materials and related products; machinery and equipment for the execution of construction work and installations; installations and materials for installation; measuring and control apparatus for installations and installation materials; machinery and equipment for town management; equipment and apparatus for research laboratories and for production in agriculture, food and packaging industries.

However, this does not preclude the showing of other exhibits of a technical nature.

Further information is available from Miss L. Haley, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Department of Trade, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 7213). The deadline for receipt of applications for space is 17 March.

Products of North display for London

The Prime Minister is to open a major NEDC exhibition 'The North by Design', promoting the products of the North of England, at London's Design Centre next month. Mr. Wilson will speak at the opening ceremony on the evening of 3 March and the exhibition will be open to the public 4 March-5 April.

This is the first exhibition to be launched by NEDC in association with the Design Council. Eight hundred square feet of space have been allocated to the display which can be seen without charge.

Thirty companies are represented in the display. Products range from laser guns to carpets, glassware and kitchen equipment to fire fighting plant and textiles.

John L. Hobbs, Director of the North of England Development Council said: 'This is a difficult time for industry and in the present economic climate NEDC has taken this initiative to support and encourage companies in the Northern Region to achieve higher sales at home and in the export market.

'Influential business men and representatives from Embassies and overseas trade organisations are among the guests we are inviting to the opening.'

Hardware and houseware exhibitions in Cologne

With the support of the British Overseas Trade Board, 72 British firms took part in two international exhibitions in the connected fields of hardware and housewares held concurrently in Cologne.

International Hardware Fair (13-16 February): a joint venture display consisting of 26 British companies was arranged by BOTB in collaboration with the Hardware Manufacturers Association and the Federation of British Handtool Manufacturers. The firms, several of which were exhibiting for the first time at Cologne, showed bathroom fittings, kitchen gadgets, aluminium domestic holloware, decorative sundries, garden tools, camping and sport equipment, architectural ironmongery, brass foundry products and a wide range of handtools.

International Housewares Fair (14-16 February): a total of 46 British firms exhibited at this event within a joint venture group organised by BOTB in association with the Hardware Manufacturers Association, the British Artmetal Manufacturers Export Group and the UK Cutlery and Silverware Manufacturers Association. Exhibits included bathroom fittings and fixtures, decorator's accessories, hand tools, kitchen aids, table cutlery, kitchenware, brushware, carpet sweepers, plastic and silver plated fancy goods and a selection of copper and brass giftware.

Britella Ltd. of Frog Island, Leicester, was one of 30 British firms exhibiting at the Knitting Industries Exhibition, Paris, 8-11 February. The British companies were taking part in a group display arranged under joint venture terms by the British Overseas Trade Board in collaboration with the British Knitting Export Council. The exhibition was held concurrently with the European Menswear Exhibition and the Children's Fashion Show at which the BOTB backed groups of, respectively, 37 and 13 British companies in collaboration with their relevant trade organisations. Picture shows Bryan Keeling, Britella managing director (left), taking an order from a Belgian buyer while the model smiles prettily.

The Head of State visits Ghana fair

From H. N. Nader, Commercial Officer, British High Commission, Accra: During the second week of January, the Ghana Manufacturers' Association held an exhibition with the theme 'Ghana's Manufacturing Achievements' to mark the third anniversary of the Government of the National Redemption Council. The exhibition, opened by the Commissioner for Industries and attended by the Head of State, was designed to emphasise the achievements of Ghana's self reliance policy and has also been regarded as a small dress rehearsal for the Third International Trade Fair to be held 1-15 February 1976.

Many of the 175 firms exhibiting their products claimed British parentage or affiliation. The increasing importance of local processing and manufacture was emphasised and the range of products shown included textiles and clothing, locally assembled vehicles, agricultural machinery and implements, food processing, pharmaceuticals, leather products, furniture and other consumer goods. Naturally in Ghana's stage of development, there was a tendency for textiles, leather and plastic goods and furniture to predominate.

The general concensus of those who visited the exhibition was that the standard of exhibit had improved over the years and that the quality of the product in many cases now compared favourably with that of more developed countries. The exhibition was a considerable achievement for the vigorous organisation of the Ghana Manufacturers' Association which now boasts 310 members.

Some of the firms exhibiting expressed a desire to have closer links with British industry, although many have been traditional customers of British suppliers for a number of years. In the long run, the contribution made to the Ghanaian economy by local manufacturers is bound to increase substantially. It is encouraging that British firms are so heavily involved in this process in view of the fact that Ghana ranks as the UK's third largest market in Africa.

Of course, Ghana will continue to be a predominantly agricultural country for sometime to come; but, even here, greater efficiency and mechanisation is clearly opening up opportunities for the UK exporter which did not exist before.

Mr. Pickwick seen at NY toy fair

The fascination of British history and its fictional characters for Americans has inspired British toy manufacturers to create for the International Toy Fair in New York this month a range of toys as British as Mr. Pickwick and Falstaff. The British Overseas Trade Board is supporting a joint venture of 20 British firms at this event at the New York Coliseum.

Supercast Ltd. of Hull is introducing to the American market moulding kits featuring characters from Dickens and Shakespeare, including Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, Mr. Pickwick, Hamlet, Falstaff and Shylock. In addition, a kit for the Battle of Waterloo was being shown, with models of the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon and all the regiments involved, together with a colour guide for painting the uniforms.

Peggy Nisbet Ltd. of Weston-super-Mare, one of Britain's leading producers of collector's dressed dolls, is introducing a Regency period collection and extending its House of Windsor range. New to America, too, will be dolls to mark the Bicentennial Celebrations, including models of George and Martha Washington, a Red Indian, an American Trooper and a British Redcoat.

At a 19th-century mill on the banks of the river Arle in the Hampshire countryside life size soft toys of woodland animals are made. Arlesford Crafts Ltd. in its range includes badgers, hedgehogs, rabbits, squirrels and owls and for the New York Fair, 16-18 February, it was reaching farther afield, introducing a polar bear and a seal.

Marconi exhibits in Moscow

Marconi Communication Systems Ltd., a GEC-Marconi Electronics Company, has been invited by the Russian authorities to exhibit at the Telekinotechnika Exhibition, to be held at Sokolniki Park, Moscow, 18-27 February. The exhibition, which is, perhaps, the premier international forum for showing television and cinematographic equipment in the USSR, is open to exhibitors by invitation only, Marconi reports.

Marconi Communication Systems will show two main items from its extensive range of television studio equipment: the Marconi Mark VIII camera, claimed to be the most advanced automatic colour television camera in the world, and the highly successful Marconi Telecine System; both will be operational during the show.

The Mark VIII, which has already been purchased by the Russian authorities, has since its introduction, set new standards in performance and operational simplicity, Marconi states. Twenty-two of these cameras have recently been purchased by the Egyptian Organisation of Broadcast and Television Federation and the equipment is currently in use in Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Jordan, The Lebanon, New Zealand, Yugoslavia and the USA, as well as the UK.

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Export Business

£15m dockside cranes and spares ordered for Saudi Arabia ports

A contract valued at just over £15 million has been signed in Riyadh by the Ministry of Communications of Saudi Aradia and Stothert and Pitt of Bath. Under this contract 66 cranes with associated spares will be manufactured and supplied to Saudi Arabia's two major ports. It is believed by the company to be the largest export order for dockside cranes ever placed with a British manufacture.

The contract was signed by the Minister of Communications, Sheikh Mohammad Omar Tawfiq, for Saudi Arabia, and by John D. Gittens, general manager of the crane and dock machinery group, for Stothert and Pitt.

Delivery of the electric crank luffing dockside crane will take place between the beginning of 1976 and mid-1977.

Forty-eight of the cranes will go to the port of Dammam on the Gulf; the other 18 will go to Jeddah on the Red Sea where they will join 24 cranes which Stothert and Pitt recently supplied to this port. The contract also includes comprehensive training of ministry personnel in the operation and maintenance of the cranes.

Stothert and Pitt is also currently exporting cranes to South Korea, Taiwan, Greece, Cyprus and Algeria.

The Saudi Arabia cranes are of Stothert and Pitt's latest design. Thirty-three of them will have a lifting capacity of 6 tonnes, the others of 15 tonnes. Each crane has a radius of 90 ft. and a maximum height of 160 ft.

Stothert and Pitt reports that the contract was won in spite of fierce international competition and follows negotiations carried out over several months.

Stothert and Pitt cranes at Jeddah. Of the 66 cranes to be supplied to the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Communications under the £15 million contract, 18 will go to the Port of Jeddah where they will join Stothert and Pitt cranes already supplied.

Hospital equipment firm's export sales

A new hospital in Jordan is to be largely equipped by the Leeds-based firm of Chas. F. Thackray Ltd. In the face of keen international competition, Thackray has won this contract, worth about £300,000, from the Jordanian Ministry of Health.

The hospital is due for completion early in 1976 and the equipment will include operating tables and other theatre equipment, sterilisers, a wide range of surgical instruments and ward equipment.

Also in the face of international competition, Thackray have won a contract, worth over £150,000, to supply Charnley hip and knee joints and Walker knee joints to France. Deliveries of this equipment – destined for various hospitals throughout France – has already begun.

The Charnley hip joint replacement is one of the most widely used surgical procedures for osteoarthritis sufferers throughout the world, states Thackray. It was developed by Professor John Charnley who, a few months ago, introduced the Charnley knee joint replacement following extensive clinical trials.

Assorted chocolate bars sold to Polish market

Cadbury Schweppes has shipped 180 tons of chocolate bars, worth over £180,000, to Poland. The orders, for Old Jamaica, small whole nut, small fruit and nut and small Fry hazelnut, filled 16 containers and were placed by Agros, the Polish State Trading Corporation.

These chocolate bars will be distributed in the open market in Poland, states Cadbury Schweppes.

Cadbury Schweppes has also announced a co-operation agreement for the production of Schweppes soft drinks in Bulgaria.

Hydraulic roof supports for Aussie mines

Orders, worth approximately £1.25 million, for some of the heaviest and largest hydraulic roof supports in the world have been won by Gullick Dobson (Export) Ltd. of Wigan.

A total of 130 four leg/800 tons supports are to be supplied to a leading Australian mining company for a longwall installation at Appin Colliery and a shortwall installation at Nebo Colliery. The Nebo project represents the first Gullick Dobson shortwall installation in Australia.

The orders were placed by Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd., New South Wales, which has several mines operating in the Wollongong vicinity. Announcement of the contract follows a visit by Dobson Park chairman Harold Jowitt and Gullick Dobson (Export) Ltd., sales director Leslie Arnott to the Australian company.

Coal from the company is used mainly in home steel production, although with the growth of the mining industry, Australia forecasts a potentially vigorous export market.

Gullick Dobson (Export) Ltd., a member of the Dobson Park Industries Group, reports that it has already supplied longwall powered roof support systems to Australia and has other supports operating successfully in America, Russia, Japan, Germany, France, Hungary, South Africa, Canada, Mexico and Spain.

Sixteen ton valves bound for Canadian heavy water plants

Twelve sets of steel valve castings, each weighing 16 tons, are to be supplied by F. H. Lloyd and Co. Ltd., Wednesbury, Staffs, to Guelph Engineering Co., Canada. The castings will be used in heavy-water nuclear power stations.

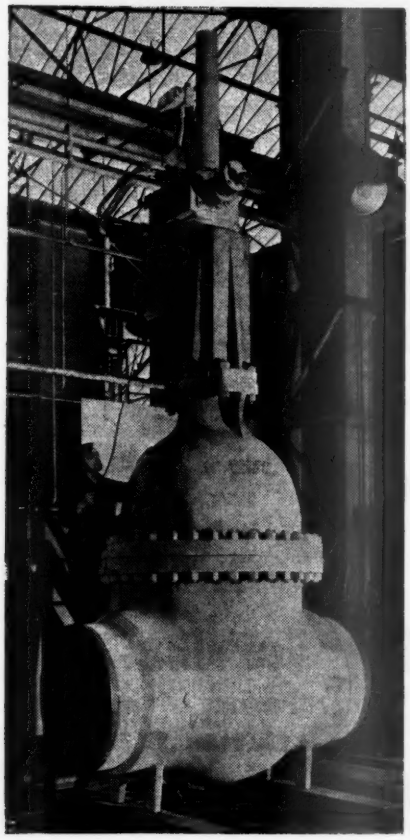
Since 1971 the company has supplied 16 complete valves and many other valve castings for Guelph. The castings in this order are for 43 in. emergency stop valves and will handle hydrogen sulphide combined with water.

Heavy water is used as a moderator in Canadian nuclear reactors. One part in every 7,000 of ordinary water is heavy water and its extraction process therefore involves considerable volumes of water which is processed using the hydrogen sulphide gas.

Large extraction plant is necessary and the various stages in the processes are separated by the valves which are generally used only in cases of maintenance or emergency.

F. H. Lloyd's involvement with Guelph Engineering is for heavy water plant at Glace Bay, Novia Scotia; La Prade, Quebec; and Bruce, Ontario.

Complete valve assembly for the Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, nuclear power station.



Members of the British Food Export Council in conversation with J. M. Goldsmith, the luncheon speaker at a seminar, to present the BFEC's survey on the distribution of imported foodstuffs in the United States, held in London on 12 February. From left to right: General I. S. Harrison, Director-General, British Food Export Council; Sir Alex Alexander, President, BFEC; J. M. Goldsmith, chairman, Cavenham Ltd., D. F. J. Shattock, chairman, BFEC.

Iran lifeboat fleet to be supplied by Fairey

The Imperial Navy of Iran is to set up a lifeboat organisation equipped by the Fairey Marine Group. The first 10 lifeboats for this organisation will be of the 13.4 metre long self-righting type and will be built at Fairey's East Cowes yard on the Isle of Wight.

The contract obtained from Iran is worth £2 million and is the largest single order ever won by the Fairey Marine Group. The first of these boats will be delivered within 18 months and the remaining nine will be delivered at intervals over the following 30 months. Fairey will supply the usual support services which include the training of the crews in handling and maintenance of the craft.

The aim of the new lifeboat force, to be stationed along a 1,000 mile coastline is to provide a reliable and economic fleet capable of providing an effective rescue service in all weather conditions.

Export seminars

Five joint British Institute of Management/ Institute of Export seminars with the theme 'Exporting to Europe' are to be held in London in the next few weeks. The series of meetings will be held at the Confederation of British Industry, 21 Tothill Street, SW1.

At the opening session, 'Setting the Scene', on 4 March, chaired by Lord Luke, President of the Institute of Export, Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board and chairman of the European Trade Committee of British Overseas Trade Board, will review the changing pattern of European trade and other matters.

Other sessions are: 'Finance of Exports', chairman, E. Y. Whittle, speakers H. B. Jackson and Maxwell Stamp, 11 March; 'Transportation and Distribution', chairman D. H. Broadbent, speaker J. P. Bearcroft, 18 March; 'Marketing in Europe', chairman A. J. Day, speakers Dr. H. D. Murdoch and Professor C. M. Schmitthoff, 26 March; and 'Open Forum of Europe', a panel of speakers chaired by R. Bailey, 3 April.

Further details are available from James L. Robinson, 'Exporting to Europe', Institute of Export, World Trade Centre, London E1 9AA.

Big Japanese order for Baker Perkins

Morinaga, a leading Japanese biscuit manufacturer, has placed an order for a complete line of biscuit plant with Baker Perkins valued at approximately £500,000. The Japanese company has been a customer of Baker Perkins for over half a century: the first plant supplied ceased production only last year.

The new plant will include, among mixers and other ancillary equipment, an 89.5 metre long oven which is one metre wide, as well as biscuit handling equipment from Baker Perkins Developments. Manufacture will be split between the company's factories at Peterborough, Hebburn-on-Tyne and Twyford.

Shipment will start in the second half of 1975.

Redland Pipes for Iran

Redland Pipes Ltd. has been awarded a contract valued in excess of £6 million for the supply of 21 kilometres of 1900 and 1950 mm diameter Fibaflo glass fibre reinforced polyester pipe and associated fittings to the Khuzestan Water and Power Authority in Iran.

The pipes will be manufactured in the UK by the reinforced plastics division at the company's Parkstone works where additional production capacity is being installed.

The order, obtained in the face of international competition, will provide pipes for the Bandar Shahpour area water supply augmentation scheme and represents the largest single order so far secured by the company overseas.

Trade Information

Removal of export control on oil and certain liquefied petroleum gases

Under the terms of the Export of Goods (Control) (Amendment No. 4) Order 1973 (SI 1973/1779) control on exports from the United Kingdom of petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals was imposed on and with effect from 26 October 1973. The Export of Goods (Control) (Amendment No. 5) Order 1973 (SI 1973/2126) extended the control to liquefied butane and liquefied propane and thereof on and from 18 December 1973.

The Secretary of State for Trade made on 11 February 1975 a further Order, The Export of Goods (Control) (Amendment) Order 1975 (SI 1975/149), removing the control on these products on and from 4 March 1974 when export licences for the products concerned will no longer be required.

Copies of the Amendment Order will shortly be available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC11 and branches or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Seminar on Mexico

The British Chamber of Commerce Mexico, in collaboration with Canning House, the Confederation of British Industry, and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will present a Seminar on Mexico at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, on 19 March.

The purpose of the Seminar is to draw the attention of British industry and business to the present economic and industrial opportunities that exist in Mexico and the prospects for the future.

Full details and application forms are available from The Seminar Secretary, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ.

Rapier H7 hydraulic cranes awaiting shipment to the People's Republic of China, part of a £1 million contract for 87 mobile cranes to be used in Chinese ports. The order was won by Ransomes & Rapier, Ipswich, a subsidiary of the Central and Sheerwood Trust. The contract with the China National Machine Import and Export Company was signed in Peking in July 1973 and all the machines have been completed on time. The Chinese Ambassador, Sung Chih-kuang, recently toured Ransoms & Rapiers' works, accompanied by Sir John Eden, MP, and Sir Niel Shields, directors of the Central and Sheerwood Trust. Next year Ransomes & Rapier will celebrate its centenary of business with China. In 1876 the company supplied China with a railway locomotive and rolling stock.

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ECGD general purpose lines of credit

The table below lists lines of credit guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department under which there is capacity for further export business to be financed.

Departmental reference	Tel. etx. at ECGD HQ	Recipient	UK bank	Purpose	Loan value £m	Minimum single contract value £'000	Final date for entering into contracts
LC 263	7171	Algeria	Lloyds	Capital goods and associated services	10	10	Expired. Extension under consideration
LC 264	7171	Algeria	Lloyds	Industrial plant, machinery, and associated services	1	10	20 June 1975
LC 389	7335	Angola	Barings	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	1	10	30 September 1975
LC 96	7369	Brazil	Baring Brothers	Electrical plant and equipment for the Marimbondo hydroelectric project	4.8	$200,000 (Sterling equivalent)	31 August 1975
LC 435	7369	Brazil	Barclays	Capital and semi-capital goods	2.5	10	31 May 1976
LC 319	7369	Brazil	Schroder Wagg	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	30 September 1975
LC 394	7313	Bulgaria	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	3	5	31 March 1975
LC 344	7369	Costa Rica	National Westminster	Capital goods, plant, machinery and associated services	0.5	10	30 April 1975
LC 434	286	Cuba	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	7	10	31 July 1975
LC 417	7313	Czechoslovakia	National Westminster	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	2	5	19 July 1976
LC 224	615	Denmark	Midland	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	Expired, but extension under consideration
LC 292	615	Denmark	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	21 February 1975
LC 293	615	Denmark	Barclays Bank International	Capital and semi-capital goods (percentage of EEC origin may be included)	0.5	10	23 March 1975
LC 453	7340	Finland	Hambros	Machinery, equipment and associated services (Rauma-Repola Oy)	0.4	5	13 June 1976
LC 476	7340	Finland	Scandinavian Bank Ltd.	Plant and equipment and associated services (Oy Wart Sila)	4	10	21 May 1976
LC 290	615	France	Midland	Industrial plant and equipment and similar capital goods	1	10	31 October 1975
LC 289	615	France	Midland	Industrial plant and equipment and similar capital goods	2	10	3 October 1975
LC 317	615	France	Lloyds	Industrial plant and machinery	5	10	31 August 1975
LC 396	7313	German Democratic Republic	National Westminster	Capital plant equipment and associated services	2	10	9 April 1976
LC 324	615	German Federal Republic	Lloyds	Industrial plant and machinery	5	10	31 August 1975
LC 436	7313	Hungary	Morgan Grenfell	Capital plant and equipment and associated services	3	5	31 July 1976
LC 441	615	Israel	Rothschilds	Capital goods and associated services	3	10	31 August 1975
LC 456	7173	Kenya	Morgan Grenfell	Plant and Equipment and associated services	1	75	1 August 1976
LC 351	7171	Liberia	Morgan Grenfell	Capital goods and associated services	3	50	30 June 1975
LC 353	698	Mozambique	Baring Brothers	Industrial plant and machinery and sundry capital goods	2	10	31 March 1975
LC 332	7367	Peru	Schroder Wagg	Capital equipment and small projects	1.5	10	7 May 1975
LC 375	7367	Peru	Lazards	Capital plant and equipment	1	40	25 May 1975
LC 236	594	Philippines	Rothschilds	Textile machinery	3	200	Expired, but extension under consideration
LC 391	286	Poland	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	10	500	31 March 1975
LC 400	286	Poland	Lloyds	Capital goods and associated services	15	100	31 March 1975
LC 406	7335	Portugal	Midland	Plant and equipment	3	25	31 October 1976
LC 310	698	Portugal	Rothschilds	Industrial plant and machinery	5	25	2 July 1975
LC 420	7313	Romania	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	3	5	31 May 1976
LC 252	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	Telecommunication equipment for the South African Post Office	20	—	31 March 1975
LC 314	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	UK goods and associated UK services primarily for use on various railway projects	18	80	22 April 1976
LC 397	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	Capital goods and related services for the electric supply undertaking operated by ESCOM	5	100	30 September 1975
LC 382	7335	Spain	Hill Samuel	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	31 December 1975
LC 421	7335	Spain	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	30 April 1976
LC 364	7340	Sweden	Hambros	Ships equipment and sundry capital goods (Uddevallavarvet A/B)	1.692	100	25 September 1975
LC 365	7340	Sweden	Hambros	Plant and equipment and associated services (Eriksborg Makaniska Verkstads A/B)	2.4	10	10 October 1975
LC 450	7340	Sweden	Midland	Ships equipment and other capital goods (Kockums)	1.3	5	18 September 1975
LC 307	7340	Sweden	Midland	Capital plant and equipment	1.0	100	20 June 1976
LC 448	7340	Sweden	Midland	Ships equipment and capital equipment (Gotaverken)	2.5	50	29 January 1976
LC 472	7340	Sweden	Midland	Plant and equipment (Saab – Scania A/B)	0.52	5	31 August 1975
LC 208	7152	Zambia	Tozer Standard & Chartered Ltd.	Capital goods and services for development of open-cast and underground mining (Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd.)	4.8	40	Expired, but extension under consideration
LC 412	615	Denmark	Scandinavian Bank Ltd.	Capital goods	0.5	10	12 September 1975

Requests for further information should be made to the bank concerned or to Export Credits Guarantee Department, PO Box 272, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (tel. 01-606 6699, extensions as listed in the second column) specifying the line of credit concerned. (2/75)

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

No. 1479: Arrangements for the importation of jute goods from 1 January 1975 to 31 December 1975

UK quota arrangements will continue in 1975 for jute fabrics up to 150 centimetres wide and new jute sacks and bags other than the free categories defined in Annex B of Notice to Importers No. 1425 dated 15 November 1973.

Imports of 'speciality' cloth, ie 'Fabrics over 18 in. (46 cm.) wide but not more than 59 in. (150 m.) wide weighing less than 61 oz. per sq. yd. or more than 9¼ oz. per sq. yd. or having more than 13 single yarns per inch in the warp and more than 12 single yarns per inch in the weft' will continue to be restricted to 500 tonnes. Companies which utilised their quotas in 1974 have received allocations for 1975.

Applications are now invited from companies interested in importing speciality cloth. Applications should state the minimum and maximum quantities required and should be accompanied by documentary evidence of their ability to secure orders for the cloth. Should the quota be oversubscribed, preference will be given to those companies which have previously applied in writing to the Department requesting an allocation under the 500 tonnes quota. Applications should be made to Miss M. A. Bolderson, Chemicals and Textiles Division, Area D, 20th floor, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU.

In the event of temporary shortages arising from unforeseen circumstances, the Department of Industry will be prepared to consider applications on an ad hoc basis to import goods of a particular category outside the quota. Licences will only be issued in cases where the Department is satisfied that there is an immediate need for the goods in question to prevent serious disruption of the business of users of such jute goods, and that such goods are not available from any United Kingdom source including manufacturers.

Inquiries tel. 01-211 6207.

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering an application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the material listed below on the grounds that this material is not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for this material, or who are interested in its future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 6 March.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemptions required until	Reference
39.01	Nylon 11 in forms covered by Note 3(b) to Chapter 39	Nylon 11 (Polyamino-undecanomide)	31 December 1975	15247

Another line of credit for Swedish shipyard

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £2.5 million line of credit which Midland Bank have made available to A.B. Gotaverken, the Swedish shipbuilding firm. This is the second line of credit to be guaranteed by ECGD for Gotaverken; the previous line of £2 million arranged in 1973 also by Midland Bank has been fully used.

The loan will enable Gotaverken to place orders in the UK on cash terms for ships equipment and capital plant. UK suppliers will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable by Gotaverken.

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £50,000 and be placed by 29 January 1976.

Since 1973 ECGD has guaranteed over £11 million in loans for the Swedish shipbuilding industry.

Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either Mr. P. J. Grindlay of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7340) or Mr. K. J. Clark of Midland Bank (tel. 01-606 9911, ext. 3507).

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (Tel: 01-606 6699). ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom; these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

£1m line of credit for France

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £1 million line of credit which National Westminster Bank have made available to Credit Industrial et Commercial SA, Paris.

The loan will enable French buyers to purchase a wide range of capital goods on cash terms. UK suppliers will receive 80 per cent of the contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources.

To qualify under this line of credit a contract must have a minimum value of £10,000 and be placed by 31 January 1976. Repayment of the loan will be over a period of two-five years depending on the value of each individual contract.

Exporters interested in further details of facility should contact either Mr. R. Singh of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 615) or Mr. K. F. C. Butt of National Westminster Bank (tel. 01-606 1080, ext. 103).

Business visits to Mauritius

Business men planning to make routine commercial visits to Mauritius are warned that operating conditions there have been adversely affected by a recent serious cyclone. Electricity supplies and telephone services are not expected to be generally restored within a fortnight or so and business visitors are therefore advised to postpone their journey until after the end of February.

Inquiries CRE ext. 5226, 3331.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on 'Japan' and 'The Yemen Arab Republic' have been published in the 'Hints to Businessmen' series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets on application to Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05-09, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7146, or to any Regional Office of the Department of Industry.

Go-ahead for LACES exports

New facilities for the highly successful computerised air cargo scheme at Heathrow – including its extension into exports – are to go ahead as planned. A special meeting last week of the Steering Group which controls the scheme adopted a five-part proposal which will bring other improvements as well as the entry into exports.

Known as LACES (London Airport Cargo Electronic-data-processing Scheme), the computer system at Heathrow was the first of its kind in the world when it went into service in 1971. Since then, it has halved handling and clearance times for one in five of all goods imported into the UK.

At present, LACES is confined to Heathrow and to the control of imports. Now, following last week's decision, it can pioneer once more by offering its real-time, on-line computer services to other airports and to aid Britain's exports, to maintain LACES as a world leader in computerised air cargo control and documentation.

The Steering Group, responsible for overall managements of LACES, put forward its system enhancement plan to the Scheme's users – 18 airlines, 180 freight-forwarding agents and HM Customs and Excise – last October. From the intensive discussions which have followed, the Steering Group is now satisfied there is sufficient support from participants to proceed with development of the enhanced system.

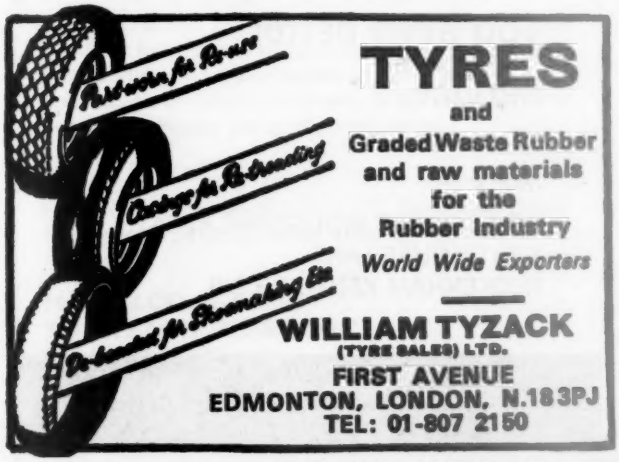
Birmingham seminar on South Korea growth market

A seminar on trade opportunities in South Korea is to be held on the afternoon of Monday 3 March (2.30-4.30) at the headquarters of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Organised jointly by the chamber and the BOTB's Trade Advisory Group, the seminar will be addressed by G. C. Nichols, on 'the prospects of business in Korea'; A. Barclay, on 'selling machine tools to the Koreans'; L. Friedman, on 'the Korean motor industry and investment prospects'; and P. Godwin, on 'financing exports to Korea'.

There will be a short audio-visual presentation on the Changwon industrial estate.

Korea's economy is booming, with GNP growing at almost 10 per cent in 1974. Exports in 1973 increased by 90 per cent over the previous year. British exports to Korea increased by 68 per cent in 1974 alone – and the country is keen to expand trade with the UK. There will be no charge for the seminar. Further information is available from Richard Grier, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 360, 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH (tel. 021-454 6171).



Tariff and Trade Notices

Iceland

Currency regulations. The Central Bank of Iceland have announced that applications for foreign currency transfers may in future take longer to service than heretofore. No new restrictions have been imposed but owing to the low level of the foreign currency reserves only payments already due or almost due will be dealt with.

The Bank emphasises that no changes have been made in the list of liberalised goods or in regulations concerning education grants, travel allowances or other such routine payments. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460/461.

Benelux

State trading countries: quota lists. Quota lists for imports into the Benelux countries from the German Democratic Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland during 1975 were published in the Dutch journal *Wereldmarkt* No. 4 of 30 January 1975. Copies of the text in English are available in OTAR Section, Export Data Branch, Room E20, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

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Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Belgium

Price control. The *Moniteur Belge* No. 22 of 31 January 1975 published a decree dated 27 January 1975, amending the decree of 22 December 1971, as amended by the decree of 1 March 1973, concerning temporary changes to the price control regulations. The notification period for price rises which should have returned to two months on 1 February 1975 will now remain at six months until 31 March 1975. Copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

France

Quality standards for semolinas and pastas. A supplement to the French *Journal Officiel* of 15 January 1975, sets out the regulations governing the approved methods for laboratory analyses to detect the unauthorised use of soft wheat in semolinas and pastas. The methods apply only to products containing egg. Copies of the full French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/408/482.

Marking of food products. The French *Journal Officiel* of 24 January 1975, published the arrêtés setting out the regulations governing the marking of preserved, semi-preserved and quick-frozen food products for the year 1975.

For preserved products the date should include the letter 'H' (the code letter for goods manufactured in the year 1975) followed by either a number between 1 and 365 showing the day of manufacture during the year or using the code letters set out in the annex attached to the arrêté.

For semi-preserved foods the code letter to be used for 1975 is 'C' followed by the day number (from 1 to 365) of the manufacturing date.

For quick-frozen foods the regulations of decree no. 949 of 9 September 1964 still apply. The outer wrapping or container must bear the date on which they were quick-frozen. The code letter for 1975 will be 'H' and this should be followed by the number of the day of manufacture.

Copies of the French notices can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/408/482.

The last of three minicomputers being supplied by Honeywell's engineering centre at Hemel Hempstead, Herts, for traffic control in the new Tauern and Katschberg tunnels through the Austrian Alps has just been shipped. The contract value, placed by Signale and Automatik AG, Berne, amounts to more than £350,000. The minicomputers are being installed at three control points – one at each of the tunnels and a main control at St. Michael between the two. Photograph shows Dave Gillow, Honeywell systems manager, with the third system just prior to shipment.

Imports of potatoes: minimum price procedure. The French *Journal Officiel* of 8 February 1975, announced that potatoes (tariff no. 07.01 AIIIb) imported from member countries of the EEC and Greece may be admitted under the minimum price procedure until the end of June 1975.

Tariff no.	Product	Reference product	Minimum price per 100 kg. (in francs)	Period of application
Price recorded at market of Arras (in sacks of 50kg.)				
07.01 AIIIb	Potatoes other than early or seed potatoes and not imported for the manufacture of starch	Bintge minimum riddle 35 mm.	0.34	February
			0.35	March
			0.36	April
			0.36	May
			0.36	June

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/408/482.

Portugal

Turnover tax. Portuguese *Diario do Governo* No. 302 of 30 December 1974 published decree law 756/74 amending the Portuguese Turnover Tax Code. Under this revised code a tax of 40 per cent is now levied on liqueurs and 60 per cent on other spirituous beverages. The rate of tax on beer and beer concentrates remains unchanged. Amendments have also been made to the lists of goods exempt from tax and those taxable at 25 per cent and 15 per cent. The basic rate of 7 per cent remains unchanged.

British exporters requiring further information must specify the goods in which they are interested. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460/461.

Spain

Milk, ground nut oil: duty suspension. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 5 February 1975, announced the suspension of import duty until 23 April 1975 on fresh milk, tariff heading 04.01; milk in powder, tariff heading 04.02.A.1a and until 4 May 1975 on ground nut oil (crude), tariff heading 15.07.A.2.a.2. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Concrete mixers: temporary import duty reduction. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 5 February 1975, announced a temporary reduction in import duties to 18.5 per cent on concrete mixers, and tariff heading 84.56.C. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Crustaceans and molluscs: import regulations. *Trade and Industry*, 7 November 1974, announced the publication of an Order dated 28 September 1974 defining the sizes of crustaceans and molluscs imported under tariff heading 03.03.A, intended for cultivation or semi-cultivation. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 6 February 1975, announced the increase from 45 mm. to 60 mm. the minimum size of crustaceans and molluscs for breeding ponds which can be imported with reduced import duties. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish global quotas for 1975 were published in *Trade and Industry*, 23 January 1975 (page 177). The Spanish authorities have now invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the first half of this year. Applications must be presented within 30 days from 8 February 1975.

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Goods	Value of quota (pesetas)
8	69.11.B 69.12.B 69.13 69.14	Manufactures of ceramic material	18,150,000
10	70.21.C	Glass manufactures	8,250,000
11	71.15 71.16	Imitation jewellery and other manufactures	14,300,000
12	ex 73.40.C.1 73.40.C.2 73.40.C.3	Other manufactures of cast iron and steel	22,000,000
14	82.03.A 82.03.B 82.03.C ex 82.03.E 82.04	Hand tools for industry	51,150,000
15	ex 82.02	Saws and blades	16,500,000

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

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TELEX 23774

Iron and steel products: duty-free import quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 5 February 1975, announced duty-free import quotas valid during 1975. Licences for these quotas will be allocated by the Spanish Ministry of Commerce:

Tariff no.	Description	Quota in metric tons
73.06.A 73.07.B.3.a 73.08	Steel ingots weighing more than 1,000 kilos Iron and steel coils	500,000
73.07.B.1	Square or rectangular billets, first quality	90,000
73.15.C.5.a	Wire rod minimum diameter 8 mm.	25,000
73.13.D.1.a	Naval plate with certificate indicating its classification	30,000
ex 73.13.D.1.a 73.13.D.3.a 73.13.D.4 73.15.D.8.a.1	Hot-rolled plates minimum thickness 6 mm., minimum length 2 m. to be used in the manufacture of pressure containers, tanks, boilers, ovens and large frames	20,000
73.13.D.2.c	Cold-rolled plate for making bath tubs	12,500
73.13.D.2.d	Sheets or plates, not softened with a maximum thickness of 0.40 mm. for making tin plate.	3,000
Above duty-free import quotas are valid during the first six months of 1975		
73.12.D.1 73.13.D.3.a 73.13.D.3.c	First quality tinplate and plates of iron or non-special steel, with a minimum width of 457 mm.	60,000
73.12.C.4 73.13.D.2.d	Chromium plates 'Black' plate with a minimum width of 457 mm. and a maximum thickness of 0.40 mm.	60,000
Above duty-free import quotas are valid until 31 December 1975		

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Greece

Certification of import invoices for meat suspended. The Greek commercial daily *Hellenews* has reported that the certification of import invoices is to be suspended in respect of frozen or fresh meat; a measure that was considered necessary due to a glut of imported meat on the market.

However, the deadline for re-exporting frozen meat is reported to have been extended to 31 December 1975. No further details are available.

Israel

Surcharge amendments. The Israeli authorities have amended the rate of surcharge on the following BN tariff numbers:

29.35	39.01	39.02	51.01	51.03	53.01	53.02	53.03	53.04	53.05
53.06	53.07	53.08	53.09	53.10	56.01	56.02	56.03	56.04	56.05
56.06	58.07	59.01	60.05	60.06	61.02	63.02			

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Purchase tax amendments: The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the Purchase Tax Order which affects the following items:

Hair, shaving and face lotions, eau-de-cologne, (406); thumb nuts, hexagonal nuts with internal thread (if sold or released from Customs control after 28/2/75) (1105); mixtures of polyethylene and carbon classifiable under B.N. 32.07-2010 (1112)

The figures in brackets are the Israeli Purchase Tax numbers. Enquiries should specify the numbers of interest. OTAR 420/475.

Iran

Ironware. Further to the notice in last week's *Trade and Industry* (page 388), the Iranian authorities have now specified that the items to which the restriction applies are those falling under tariff numbers:

73.10A2 and 3
73.10B1
73.14B and C

All other items in chapter 73 are unaffected. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Radio gramophones. The Iranian Authorities have announced that pending further notice, the registration of orders for the import of amplifiers in combination with tuner and radiograms in combination with tape-recorders, falling under tariff number 85.15 B1, will not need the approval of the Ministry of Commerce. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Import of trucks. The Iranian authorities have announced that pending further notice registration of orders for the import of trucks of a capacity of three tons or less, falling under tariff number 87.02 C, will not require prior approval of the Ministry of Commerce. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Tanzania

Cargo markings: Dar es Salaam. The Port Authority, Dar es Salaam, has introduced a system of distinctive colour marking of cargo for discharge at Dar es Salaam. The colours are as follows:

Destination	Symbol
Tanzania	Red
Zambia	Green
Zaire	Blue
Rwanda	Yellow
Burundi	Black

It is the responsibility of shippers to ensure that packages are correctly colour-marked in the following manner.

In order to avoid any confusion with the marking modes adopted by certain organisations using the port, a cross must be used for this colour marking on the same side of goods as marks and numbers. Depending on the size and/or length of the package the cross should be large enough to be 'visible from a distance'. For 'normal packages' the arms of the cross should not be less than 30 cms./1 ft. long.

It is stressed that the introduction of the above colour marking system is not intended in any way to replace the normal marks and numbers and other details of the consignee, but shippers/suppliers are urged to avoid or reduce as far as posible unnecessary advertisements, wording, etc., on packages.

This system will affect all cargoes loaded at foreign ports on or after 1 January 1975. The Port Authority at Dar es Salaam stress that they can accept no responsibility for loss of packages which are not colour marked or are incorrectly marked, reserving the right to levy sorting charges (as yet unspecified) as necessary. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 656, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 14 February 1975, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on the following:

Elastic webbing and other smallwares classifiable under tariff subheading 59.13.10. This replaces the application for an increase in duty on braids, details of which were given in *Trade and Industry* of 2 January 1975, which has now been cancelled.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Mozambique

Restrictions on manufacture of fermented juices. A recent 'Despacho' published in *Boletin Oficial* No. 151 – I Serie dated 28

December 1974, lays down the conditions under which authority to set up new industries to manufacture fermented juices may be granted:

a Applicants must have experience in the type of business for which they are applying;
b Basic raw materials to be used must be locally produced;
c 50 per cent of the authorised production is to be exported;
d The planned factory may not be installed in the district of Lourenco Marques;
e Preference will be given to the applicant who plans to export the finished product under his own brand.

These conditions also apply to applications which have already been approved, except that under sub-paragraph 'd' if construction of the factory has already started.

Companies producing alcoholic beverages who are affected by this 'Despacho' must submit, within six months from the date of its publication, a project with the required alterations to fulfill the conditions now established. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5794.

Mauritius

Import controls. The Government of Mauritius have introduced new regulations to control the import of non-essential goods. The regulations have been introduced in the form of a directive from the Bank of Mauritius to commercial banks instructing them to accept, with effect from 3 February, deposits to the extent of 40 per cent of the value of all orders for imported goods.

The deposits will be paid to the Bank of Mauritius and will not receive any interest. The deposits will be recoverable when the goods are cleared through Customs.

The following categories of goods are exempted from the payment of the bank deposits:

Goods in transit or for re-exportation
Agricultural machinery and tools
Animal skin
Buses
Cement
Chemicals
Cold store equipment
Dyes and products used in tanning
Fertilisers
Foodstuffs
Freezers
Glass, sheet
Groundnuts or other vegetable seeds for the production of edible oil
Herbicides
Industrial machinery
Live animals
Lorries and trucks
Mineral fuel, lubricants, etc.
Newsprint
Paper and stationery
Pharmaceuticals
Printed matter
Raw chemicals
Raw rubber
Scientific, medical and optical instruments
Sports articles
Thread, fibres and textile products
Tyres
Vegetable and animal oils

The success in Europe of a British project to enable low-cost knitting factories to be established in developing areas has led to the scheme being adopted in Mauritius – where a knitwear factory initially employing 1,000 people is due to start production in March. Here, a test run is in progress on one of a large number of hand-operated knitting machines which are to be used to create a new industry in Mauritius secondary to the production of sugar. John Carr Doughty, head of the Knitwear Design and Development Centre at Leicester in the English Midlands, has introduced the package deal plan to enable countries to produce top quality knitwear. It includes advice and guidance on and the supply of hand-operated machinery instead of automated and computerised knitting units, training of key operatives, provision of designs which cannot be reproduced by mass production on automated machines, and advice on world-wide marketing. The package deals have already established viable knitwear industries in Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Malta and Italy.

Certain organisations are exempted from the new regulations including:

Government Departments, municipalities, district councils, semi-government bodies and industries operating in the Export Processing Zones.

Furthermore, goods already ordered but not yet imported do not fall within the new regulations.

Further details are available. Inquiries: ext. 471/472/473/462.

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Australia

Passenger motor vehicles: tariff changes. Details are given below of changes in the Australian customs tariff, as set out in Customs Tariff Alteration Notice No. 4 (1975), operative on and from 27 January 1975.

ALTERATIONS TO PART II OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE CUSTOMS TARIFF 1966-74

Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty General and preferential
1. Omit sub-item 68.14.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
68.14.1	Segments, discs, washers and the like, of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02. sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	25%
2. Omit sub-item 70.08.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
70.08.1	In sizes and shapes ready for incorporation in motor vehicles	25%
3. Omit paragraph 70.09.19, substitute the following paragraph:		
70.09.19	Other	25%
4. Omit pararaph 70.14.41, substitute the following paragraph:		
70.14.41	Of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	25%
5. Omit sub-item 73.32.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
73.32.1	For use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	General 26%. Preferential 21%
6. Omit sub-item 73.35.2, substitute the following sub-item:		
73.35.2	For use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11, not being goods falling within sub-item 73.35.1; suitable for use in engines of a kind falling within sub-item 84.06.2 or 84.06.3	General 26%. Preferential 21%
7. Omit sub-item 83.01.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
83.01.1	Locks (whether with or without keys), and parts therefor, for use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	General 26%. Preferential 21%
8. Omit note 6 to Chapter 84.		
9. Omit sub-items 84.06.1 to 84.06.4 (inclusive), substitute the following sub-items:		
84.06.1	Goods, as follows: a fuel injection equipment and parts therefor, for compression ignition engines, for use otherwise than as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02 or sub-item 87.03.9.; b carburettors and parts therefor, for use with motor-cycles	5%
84.06.2	Engines, but not including parts therefor, for use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.02.2:	
84.06.21	As prescribed by by-law	25%
84.06.29	Other	To and including 31 December 1975 – 27.5%; From and including 1 January 1976 to and including 31 December 1976 – 30%; From and including 1 January 1977 to and including 31 December 1978 – 32.5%; From and including 1 January 1979 – 35%
84.06.3	Goods, not being good falling within a preceding sub-item of this item, as follows: a engines and parts therefor, of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02 or sub-item 87.03.9; b carburettors and parts therefor; c piston pins, piston rings and valves	25%
10. Omit sub-item 84.06.6, substitute the following sub-item:		
84.06.6	Engines having a power exceeding 7.46 kw. for installation in wheeled tractors and engines for installation in tractors of the track-laying type, but not including parts therefor; parts not falling within sub-item 84.06.3 or 84.06.7 for use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of engines for use in goods of a kind falling within sub-item 84.22.1, 84.23.1 or 87.01.2, paragraph 87.01.31 or 87.01.39 or sub-item 87.01.9 or 87.07.9	General 6%. Preferential free
11. Omit paragraphs 84.18.62 and 84.18.63. substitute the following paragraph:		
84.18.62	Of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02 or sub-item 87.03.9	25%
12. Omit sub-item 84.21.4, substitute the following sub-item:		
84.21.4	Windscreen washers	25%
13. Omit sub-item 84.62.4, substitute the following sub-item:		
84.62.4	Parts for propellor shaft universal joints of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02 or sub-item 87.03.9	25%
14. Omit sub-item 84.63.2, substitute the following sub-item:		
84.63.2	Of a kind suitable for incorporation in internal combustion piston engines of a kind falling within sub-item 84.06.2 or 84.06.3, not being goods falling within sub-item 84.63.1	25%
15. Omit note 6 to Chapter 85.		
16. Omit item 85.08, substitute the following item:		
85.08	* Electrical starting and ignition equipment for internal combustion engines (including ignition magnetos, magneto-dynamos, ignition coils, starter motors, sparking plugs and glow plugs); generators (dynamos and alternators) and cutouts of a kind used in conjunction with such engines:	
85.08.1	Distributors, not being of a kind commonly used with motor vehicles; magnetos other than of the flywheel type	5%
85.08.2	Induction coils, not being high tension ignition coils of a kind commonly used with engines for vehicles:	
85.08.21	High tension ignition coils, but not including parts therefor	General $0.49 each. Preferential $0.275 each
85.08.29	Other	General 30%. Preferential 17%
85.08.9	Other	25%
17. Omit sub-item 85.09.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
85.09.1	Dynamos of a kind used solely or principally in lighting sets of a kind falling within sub-item 85.09.2	General 26%. Preferential 21%
18. Omit sub-items 85.09.4 to 85.09.9 (inclusive), substitute the following sub-items:		
85.09.4	Goods as follows: a lamps, not being goods falling within a preceding sub-item of this item, of a kind used solely or principally with cycles; b warning devices and reflex rear lights for vehicles, other than goods of a kind commonly used on vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02 or sub-item 87.03.9	General 17%. Preferential free
85.09.9	Other	25%

Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty General and preferential
19. Omit paragraph 85.12.93.		
20. Omit sub-item 85.18.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
85.18.1	Capacitors of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	25%
21. Omit sub-item 85.19.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
85.19.1	Relays ,fuses and switches, of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	25%
22. Omit sub-items 85.20.1 and 85.20.2, substitute the following sub-item:		
85.20.1	Filament lamps of a kind commonly used in motor vehicles for lighting purposes	25%
23. Omit sub-item 85.23.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
85.23.1	Motor vehicle wiring harness	25%
24. In note 5 to Chapter 87 omit 87.02.11 and 87.03.91, item 87.04 and sub-paragraph 87.06.919, substitute 87.02.12 and 87.02.22, sub-paragraphs 87.02.231 and 87.02.239, paragraph 87.02.31, sub-item 87.02.9, paragraphs 87.03.91, 87.04.11 and 87.04.19, sub-item 87.04.9, paragraphs 87.06.51 and 87.06.59 and sub-item 87.06.9.		
25. Omit note 6 to Chapter 87, substitute the following note:		
6.	The following components are specified for the purposes of paragraph 87.01.31 whether for the purposes of this or other Schedules: a winches, other than pneumatically operated winches; b pneumatic tyres and tubes.	
26. Omit item 87.02, substitute the following item:		
87.02	* Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, goods or materials (including sports motor vehicles, other than those falling within item 87.09):	
87.02.1	Vehicles, as prescribed by by-law, of a kind operated by self-contained power (other than four-wheel drive vehicles of a kind used solely or principally in rural or underdeveloped areas, battery operated vehicles or air-cushion vehicles), being: a motor cars; b station wagons; or c derivatives of motor cars or station wagons:	
87.02.11	Assembled	35%
87.02.12	Unassembled	25%
87.02.2	Vehicles of a kind operated by self-contained power (other than four-wheel drive vehicles of a kind used solely or principally in rural or underdeveloped areas, battery operated vehicles or air-cushion vehicles), being: a motor cars; b station wagons; or c derivatives of motor cars or station wagons:	
87.02.21	Assembled	45%
87.02.22	Unassembled, being goods entered for home consumption on or after 1 January 1979	35%
87.02.23	Unassembled, being goods entered for home consumption on or before 31 December 1978:	
87.02.231	As prescribed by by-law	To and including 31 December 1975 – 27.5%; From and including 1 January 1976 to and including 31 December 1976 – 30%; From and including 1 January 1977 – 32.5%
87.02.239	Other	45%
87.02.3	Vehicles of a kind operated by self-contained power, not being: a air-cushion vehicles; b battery operated vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 2,720 kg; or c goods falling within a preceding sub-item of this item:	
87.02.31	Unassembled	In respect of a component specified in note 5 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately for use as an original component in the assembly or manufacture of a motor vehicle of a kind falling within this sub-item; in respect of the remainder of the goods – General 26%. Preferential 21%
87.02.32	Of a kind having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10 tonnes or more, not being: a rock buggies, dumpers, shuttle dumpers, tailgate dumpers or the like; or b goods falling within paragraph 87.02.31	General 17%. Preferential 9%
87.02.39	Other	General 26%. Preferential 19%
87.02.9	Other	25%
27. Omit item 87.04, substitute the following item:		
87.04	* Chassis fitted with engines, being chassis for motor vehicles of a kind falling within item 87.01, 87.02 or 87.03:	
87.04.1	For use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.02.2:	
87.04.11	As prescribed by by-law	25%
87.04.19	Other	To and including 31 December 1975 – 27.5%; From and including 1 January 1976 to and including 31 December 1976 – 30%; From and including 1 January 1977 to and including 31 December 1978 – 32.5%; From and including 1 January 1979 – 35%
87.04.9	Other	25%
28. Omit sub-item 87.05.9, substitute the following sub-items:		
87.05.2	For use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.02.2:	
87.05.21	As prescribed by by-law	25%
87.05.29	Other	To and including 31 December 1975 – 27.5%; From and including 1 January 1976 to and including 31 December 1976 – 30%; From and including 1 January 1977 to and including 31 December 1978 – 32.5%; From and including 1 January 1979 – 35%
87.05.9	Other	25%
29. Omit sub-item 87.06.9, substitute the following sub-items:		
87.06.5	Goods for use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.02.2, as follows: a chassis; b clutch assemblies; c driving axle assemblies; d gear boxes; e assemblies incorporating any of the goods specified in paragraph (b), (c) or (d):	
87.06.51	As prescribed by by-law	25%
87.06.59	Other	To and including 31 December 1975 – 27.5%; From and including 1 January 1976 to and including 31 December 1976 – 30%; From and including 1 January 1977 to and including 31 December 1978 – 32.5%; From and including 1 January 1979 – 35%
87.06.9	Other	25%

Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty General and preferential
	30. Omit paragraph 87.14.19, substitute the following paragraphs:	
87.14.13	Hand propelled vehicles and vehicles of a kind drawn by animals, not being goods falling within paragraph 87.14.12	General 36%. Preferential 17%
87.14.19	Other	25%
	31. Omit sub-paragraph 87.14.211, substitute the following sub-paragraph:	
87.14.211	Shock absorbers and parts therefor	25%
	32. Omit paragraph 87.14.29, substitute the following paragraphs:	
87.14.23	For hand propelled vehicles or vehicles of a kind drawn by animals, not being goods falling within paragraph 87.14.22	General 28%. Preferential 21%
87.14.29	Other	25%
	33. Omit sub-item 90.01.3, substitute the following sub-item:	
90.01.3	Goods, other than of glass, of a kind commonly used with motor vehicles	25%
	34. Omit paragraph 90.24.95, substitute the following paragraph:	
90.24.95	Gauges of a kind used solely or principally in vehicles	25%
	35. Omit sub-item 90.27.4, substitute the following sub-item:	
90.27.4	Goods of a kind commonly used with vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02 or sub-item 87.03.9, not being goods falling within a preceding sub-item of this item	25%
	36. Omit sub-paragraphs 90.28.262 and 90.28.263, substitute the following sub-paragraph:	
90.28.263	Thermostats not falling within sub-paragraph 90.28.261; goods the non-electrical counterparts of which fall within paragraph 90.24.19	General 6%. Preferential free
	37. Omit sub-paragraph 90.28.266, substitute the following sub-paragraph:	
90.28.266	Gauges of a kind used solely or principally in vehicles	25%
	38. Omit sub-paragraph 90.28.911, substitute the following sub-paragraph:	
90.28.911	Of a kind commonly used with motor vehicles, for 6 volt or 12 volt systems	25%
	39. Omit sub-item 94.01.2, substitute the following sub-item:	
94.01.2	Vehicle seats; parts for use as original components in the assembly or manufacture of vehicles of a kind falling within sub-item 87.01.1, item 87.02, sub-item 87.03.9 or paragraph 87.14.11	General 26%. Preferential 21%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 468/469/401.

Indonesia

Materials and building equipment for office buildings. The Indonesian Government has announced a 50 per cent import duty and tax relief on materials and equipment used in the construction of office buildings. It will be retroactive from 1 April 1974. To qualify for the relief, construction should have started by the end of the 1974/75 fiscal year and be completed within two years of receiving a letter of approval from the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

Further information, including a list of the materials and equipment affected, is available from OTAR ext. 469/468/401.

United States

Poison prevention packaging. The *Federal Register* dated 31 January 1975, published regulations by the CPSC on the labelling for household substances requiring special packaging. Effective date 30 July 1975.

A copy of the text is available to British exporters. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Trinidad and Tobago

Purchase tax. The Trinidad and Tobago authorities by GN No. 6 of 31 December 1974, have revised the Purchase Tax Schedule.

Exempted goods now include toothpaste and powder, toilet brushes, razor blades, paper napkins, sanitary cellulose napkins, toilet paper in rolls, garments of all kinds, neckwear, hosiery, handkerchiefs, certain types of footwear including sports footwear equipped with spikes, studs, bars (athletic, football, hockey, cricket, etc.), gaiters, spats, leggings, puttees, cricket pads, chin guards, table tennis tables, household and kitchen woodware except furniture, 16 mm. cinematograph film, ice cream conservators and refrigerated display units for use in commercial enterprises.

Purchase Tax on domestic stoves and ranges of all kinds is 25 per cent and spare parts for same 15 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Chile

Import Liberalisation Programme: further information. The Chilean authorities, following the mid-1974 announcement of new import tariff policies (see *Trade and Industry*, 23 May 1974, page 418), have recently introduced further extensive modifications to customs *ad valorem* import tariffs. The announcement, published as Decree No. 24 of 3 January 1975, reduces most of the higher tariff levels, but those at the lower levels are raised.

Details of the modifications:

From (old rate %)	To (new rate) %
140	120
130	110
120	100
110	95
100	85
90	80
80	70
70	60
60	55
50	45
45	40
10	15
5	10
0	5

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Nicaragua

Revision of tax structure. The Nicaraguan Government has announced a revision of the country's taxation structure. The main changes are as follows:

1 A Selective Consumption Tax (in addition to other customs duties which remain unchanged) consolidating and in some cases modifying the old Special Compensatory Consumption

Tax and Internal Consumption Tax. It is levied on the cif value of the goods

2 An increase in the rate of General Sales Tax to 6 per cent

3 0.5 per cent tax on cif invoice value (an amendment to existing stamp duties).

Details and rates of the new Selective Consumption Tax are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Guatemala

Food control regulations. *Trade and Industry* of 17 May 1973 (page 299) referred to new regulations in Guatemala for the registration and control of foodstuffs and beverages.

The Department of Health states that the latest date for the registration of foodstuffs is 1 March 1975, and products not registered by that date may be confiscated.

A copy of an unofficial translation of the regulations is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Uruguay

Extension of duty exemptions and reductions. Uruguayan decree 1.018/974 of 19 December 1974 extended until 30 June 1975 the concessions previously granted to the following range of goods:

100 PER CENT EXEMPTION
Socks
Raw, unrefined or unprocessed sugar
Unroasted coffee beans
Fertilisers and the raw materials for their manufacture
Fodder and maize for animal feed
Imports made by the Comision Honorario del Plan Agropecuario using funds originating from loan agreements for its own use
Imports made by UTE of the following materials: high tension insulators, cables for armoured accessories, generating equipment and spares, chemical products for thermal generating equipment, control equipment, spares for industrial machinery, iron and steel sheet, solder and soldering sheet, switches, transformers, motors and generators, special tools which are not produced domestically, boiler levels, roller bearings and/or their housings, insulating paper, measuring equipment, zinc wire, tubing of any kind of metal, resistances, paper for printing, lubricating oils and fats, insulating oil, aluminium and steel, industrial machinery and equipment, electrical apparatus, cast iton material, resins for the treatment of water in thermal generators, antifriction metal, enamelled wire for bobbins, elbows, junctions and couplings for piping, electrodes and electronic equipment, electric lamps
Water marked diary paper
Products for the prevention and treatment of diseases affecting cattle and agriculture, and the raw materials for their manufacture
Unprocessed common salt
Seeds for sowing, except potatoes
Jute, kemp and kenof
Capital goods referred to in decree 504/972 of 20 July 1972: wood squared or not, referred to in decree 436/972 of 22 June 1972
Unprocessed cellulose sulphate
Unprocessed cellulose sulphite
Bleached cellulose sulphate
Bleached cellulose sulphite

85 PER CENT REDUCTION
Lubricating oils and fats
Combustibles
Flour
Sizal thread for agricultural use
Unmanufactured tobacco
Tea, not put up for retail sale
Manufactured and processed yerba maté
Perchlorethyle tricholrethylene

40 PER CENT REDUCTION
Scrap of iron and/or steel
Iron in bars, not moulded, forged or hot-rolled, of circular, square or rectangular section or of special profiles
Raw materials, declared as such, attracting duties below 31 per cent or free of duty
Metals and alloys in ingots
Spare parts for industrial machinery
Copper in bars tubes or rods
Iron, in normal profiles
Iron, in billets
Control clocks

These exemptions apply only to imports free of surcharge or with a surcharge of up to 10 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Reduction of VAT on agricultural machinery. Uruguayan decree 976/74 of 12 December 1974 reduced the rate of value added tax on the sale or import of agricultural machinery for use exclusively in the agricultural sector from 18 per cent to 6 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Tax exemptions on cold rooms. Uruguayan decree 1.019/74 of 19 December 1974 gave exemption from surcharges, consular fees, harbour and additional duties, import duties and taxes until 30 June 1975 to the import of cold rooms, prefabricated cold rooms, their spares and accessories. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Argentina

Iron or steel blooms and billets. Decree 1465/74, published in the *Boletin Oficial* of 21 November 1974, establishes conditions, licensing, quotas and modifications to the import tariff on iron or steel blooms and billets covered by BN headings 73.07 and 73.13.

An unofficial translation of this Decree is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Additions to customs tariff. Resolution 36/74, published in the *Boletin Oficial* of 26 November 1974, makes the following additions to the Customs Tariff:

Tariff no.	Description	Rate of duty *ad valorem* cif
29.44.06.02	Sterile streptomycin sulphate, with licence from the Secretaria de Estado de Desarrollo Industrial	5%
29.44.07.43	Chloramphenicol hemisuccinate, with licence from the Secretaria de Estado de Desarrollo Industrial	5%

They are exempt from prior deposit. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Bumper order for Moscow

Engineers at the factory of Fielding & Platt in Gloucester test a Redman machine for producing mild steel chromium-plated car bumper bars at the Moskovitch factory in Moscow. The frame of the machine is fabricated from heavy steel plate welded to a base of equally rugged construction in order to counter the enormous loads imposed during forming of the bars. As the forming cycle takes place, the applied pressure varies from zero to about 80 tonnes.

European Community

Generalised Tariff Preference Scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties

In *Trade and Industry* of 26 December 1974 a general account was given of the GSP for 1975. Details of the scheme can be found in the *Official Journal of the Communities* L 329 of 9 December 1974.

(Copies of the *Official Journal* may now be obtained from any Government Bookshop or direct from HM Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1. Present price, post included, £1.18.)

Under GSP the restoration of normal duties (after the exhaustion of UK quota shares, the reaching of butoirs, ceilings and inner ceilings) may occur at short notice. Importers wishing to be sure whether the preferences are still available should contact HM Customs and Excise at King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570 (quotas and butoirs), ext. 2294 (ceilings and inner ceilings). (Parts 10B and 11 of HM Customs Tariff relate to GSP and tariff quota arrangements.)

It is intended to continue the practice of publishing in *Trade and Industry* a monthly summary based on the latest available information from Customs. However, importers can always obtain more up-to-date information from Customs; even then of course no assurance can be given that the preferences will still be available when imported goods are cleared for home use; the normal rates of duty may have been restored in the meantime.

The position on the restoration of normal duties as at 3 February was as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Customs quota reference*	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached. Duty to be re-imposed	
				On date	For goods from
42.03 BI (S/C)	Gloves, protective, for all trades	1626		25/1/75	Hong Kong
51.04	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (continuous), etc.	3465	7/1/75		
ex 55.09 AI	Other woven fabrics of cotton, etc. – unbleached, of a width of less than 85 cm.	3686	2/1/75		
55.09 AII	– unbleached, of a width of 85 cm. to 115 cm.	3694	2/1/75		
	– more than 115 cm. and up to 165 cm.	3708	2/1/75		
	– more than 165 cm.	3716	2/1/75		
	– other than unbleached	3724	2/1/75		
56.05 A	Yarn of man-made fibres, etc., – of synthetic textile fibres	3821		28/1/75	South Korea
ex 60.05 AII B	Outer garments and other articles, etc. – other than of cotton	4096	13/1/75		
61.01	Men's and boy's outer garments – other than cotton	4134	8/1/75		
62.02	Bed linen, table linen, etc. – of woven fabrics of cotton	4193	2/1/75		
64.01	Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or artificial plastic material	4479	14/1/75		
64.02 B	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather, etc. – other	4258	16/1/75		
90.05 (S/C)	Refracting telescopes (monocular or binocular), prismatic or not	5016		25/1/75	South Korea
97.02 (S/C)	Dolls	5105		31/1/75	Hong Kong

* See Customs Tariff Part 11.
(S/C) denotes Special Ceiling.

II CEILINGS: NIL

EEC information for businessmen: new free booklet

'EEC – Your Questions Answered', a new 80 page booklet published by the EEC Information Unit, contains answers to businessmen's inquiries on a wide range of EEC subjects. These include trade with EFTA and other countries associated with the Community, customs procedures and documentation, tariffs, market information and non-tariff barriers to trade. Some of these questions and answers have already appeared in *European Community Commentary* and have been updated where necessary; others have not previously been published.

The booklet also contains background information about how the Community works as well as a list of countries with association or trade arrangements with the EEC, a glossary of more commonly used initials and abbreviations, public holidays in EEC and EFTA countries in 1975, a check list of draft and adopted directives on technical standards, lists of publications, useful addresses and contacts both in Europe and the UK.

Copies are available, free of charge, from the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 4301 (6 lines).

Tariff quotas 1975 – exhaustions

HM Customs have stated that the United Kingdom's share of the following EEC tariff quotas for 1975 have been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Item	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
73.02 C	Ferro silicon	4509
ex 73.02 EI	Ferro chromium containing 0.1% or less by weight of carbon and more than 30% not more than 90% inclusive of chromium	4525

The United Kingdom share of the following EEC tariff quota for imports from Turkey has also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Item	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
55.05	Cotton yarn	3481

The following United Kingdom tariff quota for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual EFTA countries and Finland (see *Trade and Industry*, 28 November 1974) has also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Country of origin	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
ex 48.01 EII b)	Switzerland	2109

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

Advertising in 'Trade and Industry'

All advertising in *Trade and Industry* is now handled by T. G. Scott & Son Limited of 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED (tel: 01-242 6242 and 01-405 4743), and not by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

***Trade and Industry* continues to be published for the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and all existing contracts and agreements will continue unchanged.**

Her Majesty's Stationery Office will continue to handle all circulation and distribution matters and subscription inquiries and queries should continue to be addressed to them.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 4174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference points given at the end of the item.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: The texts of the following Regulations, Directives and Decisions, which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

General. Regulation (EEC) 192/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of export refunds in respect of agricultural products. (*Official Journal* L25, 31 January 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 193/75 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences and advance fixing certificates for agricultural products. (*Official Journal* L25, 31 January 1975)

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 261/75 derogating in respect of oranges of the Sanguinello variety from Regulation (EEC) 193/70 establishing the procedure for giving effect to measures to promote the marketing of oranges and mandarins in the Community. (*Official Journal* L27, 1 February 1975)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 256/75 extending the period of validity of Regulation (EEC) 1295/74 on the processing of beef bought-in by the intervention agencies. This replaces the date, '31 January 1975' in Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) 1295/75 by '31 March 1975'. (*Official Journal* L27, 1 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 257/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 3067/74 as regards the period for granting of interest subsidies. This replaces the date '30 April 1975' in Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) 3067/74 by '31 October 1975' and '31 January 1975' in Article 4(2) by '28 February 1975'. (*Official Journal* L27, 1 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 259/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 2778/74 as concerns the equivalence for the purposes of boning in connection with private storage contracts between bone-in and boned beef. (*Official Journal* L27, 1 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 266/75 on the retention of development premiums for the raising of beef cattle laid down by Regulation (EEC) 1353/73. (*Official Journal* L30, 4 February 1975)

Seeds and plants. Decision 75/85/EEC extending for France in respect of a certain number of varieties the period after which seeds and propagating material of varieties of agricultural plant species are no longer subject to any marketing restrictions relating to variety. (*Official Journal* L32, 5 February 1975)

Decision 75/86/EEC extending for Germany in respect of a certain number of varieties the period after which seeds and propagating material of varieties of agricultural plant species are no longer subject to any marketing restrictions relating to variety. (*Official Journal* L32, 5 February 1975)

Decision 75/87/EEC extending for Luxembourg in respect of a certain number of varieties the period after which seeds and propagating material of varieties of agricultural plant species are no longer subject to any marketing restrictions relating to variety. (*Official Journal* L32, 5 February 1975)

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 288/75 temporarily suspending the advance fixing of export refunds for certain milk products. (*Official Journal* L33, 6 February 1975)

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 260/75 laying down detailed rules for the grant of a premium for the production of sugar from molasses. (*Official Journal* L27, 1 February 1975)

Cereals and rice. Regulation (EEC) 231/75 concerning production refunds on potato starch and amending the Annex to Regulation (EEC) 1980/74 (published in *Official Journal* L207, 29 July 1974). (*Official Journal* L24, 31 January 1975)

The *Official Journal* L27, 1 February 1975 contains the following correction to the text of Regulation (EEC) 10/75 (published in *Official Journal* L1, 3 January 1975) amending Regulation (EEC) 2012/74 laying down detailed rules as regards production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors; Page 25, Article 2(b):
for: '(b) where applicable, the amount referred to in the first indent of the third paragraph of Article 2(3) has been repaid', read: '(b) where applicable, the amount referred to in subparagraph (a) of the third paragraph of Article 2(3) has been repaid'.

Regulation (EEC) 271/75 authorising the United Kingdom

New EC Legislation
continued

partially to suspend as regards certain products of the cereals and rice sector the component for the protection of the processing industry. (*Official Journal* L30, 4 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 272/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1983/74 fixing, for the 1974/75 marketing year, in respect of trade within the Community the components designed to protect the rice and cereals processing industries. (*Official Journal* L30, 4 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 278/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 3130/73 as regards the security to be lodged when tendering for the export levy for cereals. (*Official Journal* L31, 5 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 279/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of tendering for export refunds on cereals. (*Official Journal* L31, 5 February 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 281/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1981/74 as regards export levies on starches. (*Official Journal* L31, 5 February 1975)

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 267/75 laying down general rules for table wine distilling operations which should end on 6 June 1975. (*Official Journal* L30, 4 February 1975)

Animal feeding stuffs. Directive 75/84/EEC establishing Community methods of analysis for the official control of feeding stuffs. (*Official Journal* L32, 5 February 1975)

EEC information – Inquiry points at Customs and Excise headquarters

General inquiries on EEC matters which are the concern of HM Customs and Excise may be made to the following telephone extensions:
HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel: 01-626 1515

		Extn.
Community Transit	International Customs Division D —Branch 1	
	traders A-K	2263
	traders L-Z	2561
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, Greece and Turkey	International Customs Division D —Branch 2	2561
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, except Greece and Turkey, Anglo-Danish Free Trade Agreement	International Customs Division E —Branch 3	2504
Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement, Channel Islands, Isle of Man	International Customs Division E —Branch 3	2504
Compensatory levies	International Customs Division G —Branch 3	2343/2307
European Communities—general inquiries	International Customs Division D	2478
	—Branch 4	2431
EEC Free Trade Agreements with EFTA countries	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2385/2165
Copies of public notices and customs forms on EEC matters	General Services Division—Unit 4	3079/2069

RULES OF COMPETITION: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L29 of 3 February 1975 contains the text of five Commission Decisions relating to proceedings under Article 85 or Article 86 of the Treaty of Rome:

Decision 75/73/EEC: Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (reference DGIV/14.650) relating to agreements for the distribution of motor vehicles and motor cycles, spare parts, accessories and after-sales service for the goods concerned.

Decision 75/74/EEC: Duro-Dyne Corporation/Europair International SA (reference DGIV/560) concerning an exclusive dealing agreement for heating and air conditioning equipment.

Decision 75/75/EEC: General Motors Continental NV (reference DGIV/28.851) concerning the fees charged for the issue of certificates and the inspection of Opel motor vehicles imported into Belgium.

Decision 75/76/EEC: Rank Precision Industries Ltd./Société d'optique, précision, électronique et mécanique (Sopelem) (reference DGIV/26.603) relating to an agreement for co-operation in the fields of research, development, manufacture and distribution of lenses and lens controls used in the motion-picture industry and for the manufacture of television cameras.

Decision 75/77/EEC: Principal French Mushroom Producers/The Taiwan Mushroom Packers (reference DGIV/ 27.039) concerning an agreement relating to the sale of preserved mushrooms to Germany.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. 01-215 5092).

ITALIAN IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEME: The *Official Journal* L30, 4 February 1975, contains the text of Decision 75/91/EEC amending Decision 74/386/EEC (published in *Official Journal* L198, 20 July 1974) setting a time limit date to the Decision 74/287/EEC (published in *Official Journal* L152, 8 June 1974) authorising Italy to take certain safeguard measures under Article 108(3) of the EEC Treaty with respect to certain sectors of agriculture. This replaces the date '31 January 1975' in the second indent of Article 3(2) of Decision 74/386/EEC by '2 March 1975'.

CUSTOMS DUTIES: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L354, 30 December 1974, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 3300/74 on the tariff treatment applicable in the Community as originally constituted to a certain number of products imported from the new Member States.

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9 223	2,130	2,089	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	257	324	68	−23	685	−9	694
1971	101	103	100	94	102	−7	−126	52	−4	1,050	285	765
1972	104	109	103	85	115	−39	205	48	3	72	−677	749
1973	109	114	108	90	121	674	374	32	242	−1,185	−2,342	1,157
1974										−3,687	−5,146	1,459
1972 1st qtr.	101	108	103	90	107	−36	−62	17	−16	84	−121	205
2nd qtr.	104	108	103	84	115	−27	−108	1	38	121	−64	185
3rd qtr.	104	110	102	82	115	−13	−42	6	−13	−114	−284	170
4th qtr.	106	111	105	83	123	−37	7	24	−6	−19	−208	189
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	111	89	128	257	146	11	32	−205	−364	159
2nd qtr.	109	112	104	86	112	202	61	−9	163	−205	−407	202
3rd qtr.	110	114	109	91	120	94	68	6	22	−256	−586	330
4th qtr.	110	114	109	94	124	121	99	24	25	−518	−984	466
1974 1st qtr.	106	113	111	99	111	−261	−100	8	−73	−978	−1,293	315
2nd qtr.	109	112	103	99	107	227	138	42	11	−949	−1,322	373
3rd qtr.	111	114	103	99	115	179	216	−30	−28	−773	−1,154	381
4th qtr.										−986	−1,376	390p
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.9	−0.8	−6.7	+2.4	−5.9							
on a year earlier	+0.5	−0.2	−3.6	+11.5	−4.6							

	Index of industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
			monthly averages										totals	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		16 Jan. 1962		1970	1970	31 July 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	8,796	8,512
1972	102.4	102.0	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	9,134	9,811
1973	109.9	110.5	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.4	123.2•	115.5	581	2.6	304	11,455	13,796
1974	106.6	108.2	109.9	102.7	108.5†	16.0	240.2	151.9	138.2				15,458	20,604
1973 1st qtr.	109.9	109.9	111.8	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.9	667	2.9	228	2,672	3,036
2nd qtr.	109.6	110.1	108.3	136	177.9	9.3	133.3	120.1•	113.7	605	2.6	289	2,775	3,183
3rd qtr.	110.7	111.4	110.6	143	180.2	9.2	150.8	124.2	118.5	562	2.5	334	2,970	3,556
4th qtr.	109.4	110.4	112.0	119	186.8	10.3	167.6	129.1	121.0	489	2.2	364	3,038	4,022
1974 1st qtr.	103.4	105.5	109.8	103	101.4†	12.9	212.5	138.4	125.0	543	2.4	285	3,448	4,741
2nd qtr.	107.8	109.3	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.2	552	2.4	309	3,877	5,200
3rd qtr.	109.0	110.6	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	213.0	156.1	143.7	600	2.7	306	4,140	5,295
4th qtr.	106.4	107.3	111.6 p	96	115.1	18.2	221.8 p	164.7 p	152.9	••	••	••	3,992	5,368
1973 Dec.	106.2	107.0	112.6	103	188.2	10.6	175.1	130.6	122.0	470	2.1	362	1,018	1,326
1974 Jan.	101.2	102.3	109.1	93	191.8	12.0	209.5	134.1	123.7	535	2.4	304	1,055	1,418
Feb.	103.1	106.6	110.1	109	101.7†	13.2	213.1	138.5	124.7	549	2.4	278	1,151	1,598
Mar.	105.7	107.0	110.0	106	102.6	13.5	215.0	142.2	126.5	545	2.4	274	1,242	1,725
Apr.	107.3	109.0	107.9	97	106.1	15.2	215.4	146.3	127.9	546	2.4	297	1,265	1,668
May	107.5	108.6	105.6	105	107.6	15.9	214.0	148.9	132.0	548	2.4	314	1,299	1,780
June	108.6	110.4	108.2	111	108.7	16.5	211.7	151.1	136.8	561	2.5	317	1,313	1,751
July	109.5	111.0	109.2	106	109.7	17.1	212.3	153.5	139.7	582	2.6	317	1,330	1,750
Aug.	109.4	111.4	111.4	102	109.8	16.9	213.7	156.1	145.4	606	2.7	298	1,375	1,752
Sept.	108.1	109.4	112.2	118	111.0	17.1	212.8	158.6	146.2	612	2.7	303	1,436	1,793
Oct.	107.9	108.4	111.4	102	113.2	17.1	220.1	162.2	148.3	607	2.7	297	1,336	1,807
Nov.	107.5	108.7	112.8	98	115.2	18.3	223.8	164.7	153.4	608	2.7	276	1,295	1,854
Dec.	103.9	104.7	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5 p	167.2 p	156.9	••		••	1,361	1,707
1975 Jan.			112½ p	108	119.9	19.9	221.7 p	172.0 p		675e	3.0	••	1,546 p	1,807 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−2.4	−3.0	+0.5	−9.0	+5.4		+3.3	+5.7	+6.3	+7.9		−5.3	+1.5	+0.5
on a year earlier	−2.7	−2.8	−0.4	−9.0	+19.1		+21.3	+28.0	+26.2	+12.9		−13.8	+35.5	+32.5

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. • After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT. † Base of index Jan. 1974 = 100.
•• Figures not available.

Index of retail prices for January

The index of retail prices for all items for 14 January 1975 was 119.9 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 2.6 per cent on December (116.9) and of 19.9 per cent on January 1974 (100.0).

The rise in the index in January was due to higher prices for petrol, sugar, second-hand cars, meat, vegetables, sweets and chocolates, and many other goods and services. There was a fall in the average price of eggs.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1

	All items			All items except seasonal food		
	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1974						
August	109.8	+0.1	+16.9	110.3	+0.3	+8.2
September	111.0	+1.1	+17.1	111.5	+1.1	+8.5
October	113.2	+2.0	+17.1	113.7	+2.0	+7.0
November	115.2	+1.8	+18.3	115.6	+1.7	+7.3
December	116.9	+1.5	+19.1	117.4	+1.6	+8.1
1975						
January	119.9	+2.6	+19.9	120.5	+2.6	+9.5

TABLE 2 General index of retail prices

	Indices (15 Jan. 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	10 Dec. 1974	14 Jan. 1975	
All items	116.9	119.9	+2.6
All items excluding food	117.7	120.4	+2.3
Food	114.4	118.3	+3.4
Seasonal food	106.5	106.6	+0.1
Other food	116.3	121.1	+4.1
Alcoholic drink	116.3	118.2	+1.6
Tobacco	123.8	124.0	+0.2
Housing	109.0	110.3	+1.2
Fuel and light	122.4	124.9	+2.0
Durable household goods	116.9	118.3	+1.2
Clothing and footwear	117.2	118.6	+1.2
Transport and vehicles	123.3	130.3	+5.7
Miscellaneous goods	122.4	125.2	+2.3
Services	113.7	115.8	+1.8
Meals out	116.5	118.7	+1.9

Retail sales – provisional estimates for January

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in January is 112½ (1971 = 100) indicating a rise of 1½ per cent, following the fall in December.

It is possible that some of this increase may be attributable to comparatively buoyant annual 'sales', in particular in clothing and footwear shops where trade had been relatively depressed, probably by the mild weather, towards the end of last year.

However, when allowance is made for the various factors which may have influenced trade in particular months, it appears that the volume of sales in January may have been little different from the average level in the last five months of 1974, during which time the underlying level of trade was broadly flat.

The major factors which influenced trade in December and also November were probably the effects of pre-Budget buying and the special £10 payment to pensioners.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	• fifty-three week period

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of retail sales in January shows a rise of 21 per cent compared with January last year.

Retail sales: Volume Seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)			Retail sales: Value Not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier		
1973	1st quarter	111.8	1973	1st quarter	+16
	2nd quarter	108.3		2nd quarter	+12
	3rd quarter	110.6		3rd quarter	+12
	4th quarter	112.0		4th quarter	+13
1974	1st quarter	109.8	1974	1st quarter	+11
	2nd quarter	107.3		2nd quarter	+15
	3rd quarter	111.0		3rd quarter	+18
	4th quarter	111.6 (prov.)		4th quarter	+18
	October	111.2		October	+14
	November	112.1		November	+14
	December	112.6		December	+13
1974	January	109.1	1974	January	+12
	August	111.4		August	+18
	September	112.2		September	+19
	October	111.4		October	+18
	November	112.8		November	+19
	December	110.8		December	+17
1975	January	112½ (prov.)	1975	January	+21 (prov.)

Note: provisional figures

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimates was published in *Trade and Industry* on 21 February 1974.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for January will be published in a press notice on Monday, 10 March 1975.

Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland for November was 185 (1965 = 100), 13 per cent more than in November 1973.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in November showed a fall of some 5 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in November and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

		November 1974	
Sales by:	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	185	13
Food shops	97	198	16
Non-food shops	122	174	11
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	155	5
Durable goods shops	21	175	9
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	204	17
Department and general stores	22	148	10

Index of industrial production in December 1974

The provisional estimate index of production for December 1974, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, is 103.9 (seasonally adjusted). For manufacturing industry alone the figure is 104.7.

For the three months October 1974 to December 1974, it is provisionally estimated that production as a whole was 2.4 per cent lower than the figures for the preceding three months, July 1974 to September 1974; for manufacturing industry alone there was a decrease of 3.0 per cent.

The average index numbers of the latest three months and the previous three months shown at the foot of the table give a general guide to the changes which have taken place in the output of the major groups in recent months.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
			Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
				Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods, n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	100.4	99.7	99.6	100.7	100.1	101.7	103.4	102.2	99.1	100.1	100.8	102.6	96.6	98.5	93.3
1972	102.4	84.0	102.0	105.0	104.2	106.4	102.6	108.1	99.3	95.0	93.1	110.3	91.8	101.6	94.2
1973	109.9	93.6	110.5	109.3	106.4	114.0	110.0	121.6	107.2	103.6	101.7	125.9	95.1	101.6	102.7
1974	106.6	83.8	108.2	110.9	105.9	119.1	106.1	127.2	105.8	104.4	105.6	121.6	95.5	95.2	106.1
1972 3rd qtr.	103.6	95.5	102.9	105.3	105.2	105.5	107.1	108.7	99.7	92.9	96.0	111.0	91.4	103.6	96.4
4th qtr.	105.8	98.9	106.0	105.5	105.0	106.4	105.2	112.9	102.4	96.0	92.9	116.0	92.5	106.3	97.2
1973 1st qtr.	109.9	99.6	109.9	108.4	106.8	111.1	105.9	119.0	107.0	102.5	102.0	126.4	94.1	102.5	102.1
2nd qtr.	109.6	96.2	110.1	109.6	107.1	113.8	108.4	119.9	106.4	102.2	101.9	126.0	94.1	99.8	103.9
3rd qtr.	110.7	94.7	111.4	110.2	105.9	117.1	115.2	123.4	108.3	104.8	102.0	125.2	95.7	104.1	104.5
4th qtr.	109.4	84.1	110.4	109.0	106.0	114.0	110.7	124.2	106.9	104.9	101.2	126.0	96.4	100.2	100.1
1974 1st qtr.	103.4	58.2	105.5	114.7	109.6	123.0	101.8	126.6	101.0	100.4	99.6	120.2	85.7	89.2	98.6
2nd qtr.	107.8	90.8	109.3	110.6	106.3	117.5	110.7	127.1	106.1	104.3	107.8	119.0	97.4	96.7	108.7
3rd qtr.	109.0	93.1	110.6	109.9	104.4	118.9	106.5	131.8	108.8	105.8	107.2	124.2	98.7	100.8	109.8
4th qtr.	106.4	94.2	107.3	108.6	103.4	117.3	105.5	123.2	107.2	107.0	107.9	123.1	100.0	94.3	107.0
1974 Feb.	103.1	44	106.6	115	110	123	103	132	102	102	101	122	87	90	99
Mar.	105.7	59	107.6	111	109	116	106	124	103	101	102	120	89	93	102
Apr.	107.3	89	109.0	111	105	121	111	130	105	103	107	118	97	93	108
May	107.5	91	108.6	112	108	118	115	126	106	105	108	119	97	89	108
June	108.6	92	110.4	109	106	114	106	126	107	105	109	120	98	98	110
July	109.5	94	111.0	110	105	119	98	131	109	105	107	123	97	102	113
Aug.	109.4	93	111.4	110	104	120	114	131	110	106	107	124	99	106	110
Sept.	108.1	92	109.4	110	104	119	107	133	108	106	108	125	100	95	107
Oct.	107.9	94	108.4	108	103	117	108	127	108	107	108	125	100	95	109
Nov.	107.5	94	108.7	109	105	115	108	124	109	107	108	123	101	98	112
Dec.	103.9	94	104.7	109	102	119	100	118	105	107	109	121	99	90	100
July-Sept. (av.)	109.0	93	110.6	110	104	119	106	132	109	106	107	124	99	101	110
Oct.-Dec. (av.)	106.4	94	107.3	109	103	117	105	123	107	107	108	123	100	94	107

	Manufacturing industries (continued)												Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.						
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	91.4	89.4	97.7	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	107.7	106.3	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.7	102.9	103.9
1972	90.8	89.2	95.7	104.6	103.0	104.5	107.7	114.2	113.6	115.1	113.5	102.6	104.2	104.5	111.2
1973	99.5	97.3	106.1	109.9	108.6	101.0	113.8	126.2	124.8	128.3	131.7	112.1	116.4	107.3	117.8
1974	90.8	86.4	104.5	103.6	100.1	98.8	111.4	117.6	110.1	129.3	113.8	111.7	113.8		117.8
1972 3rd qtr.	92.7	90.9	98.5	106.7	105.3	105.0	109.9	113.8	113.7	114.0	112.9	103.8	107.0	104.0	114.8
4th qtr.	98.5	96.2	105.9	108.3	107.6	105.6	110.2	123.8	122.0	126.7	119.8	107.4	110.8	102.6	114.2
1973 1st qtr.	99.8	97.8	106.1	110.1	111.1	103.0	109.0	125.6	128.1	121.7	136.5	108.9	115.9	110.3	114.6
2nd qtr.	99.1	96.5	107.2	111.6	110.5	102.3	115.1	125.7	124.3	127.9	131.3	111.8	116.0	106.1	118.7
3rd qtr.	100.0	97.3	108.7	108.7	106.3	99.9	114.8	127.9	124.5	133.2	131.4	114.8	116.4	107.5	117.4
4th qtr.	98.9	97.8	102.5	109.1	106.3	99.0	116.4	125.5	122.4	130.3	127.7	113.0	117.2	105.5	120.6
1974 1st qtr.	88.6	83.5	104.1	99.1	98.9	96.3	99.9	117.2	106.9	133.3	114.8	108.8	111.7	101.7	107.7
2nd qtr.	90.4	85.1	106.8	108.8	106.9	100.6	113.9	122.0	115.0	133.0	116.0	113.1	117.5	99.5	118.0
3rd qtr.	94.2	91.0	104.0	105.6	100.6	98.5	116.8	117.6	109.9	129.7	113.3	115.0	117.1	98.0	123.0
4th qtr.	90.2	86.1	103.0	100.8	94.1	99.8	114.6	113.6	108.8	121.2	111.3	109.7	109.1		123.1
1974 Feb.	90	84	108	98	99	98	97	115	105	131	118	111	112		105
Mar.	92	87	105	106	106	100	107	126	116	142	119	111	117		113
Apr.	91	86	106	110	108	99	114	124	116	137	116	112	116		115
May	84	78	104	105	103	99	110	122	115	131	114	112	116		121
June	96	92	110	112	109	104	118	120	114	131	118	114	120		118
July	95	93	102	107	101	98	120	118	114	124	113	117	118		126
Aug.	100	98	106	107	103	99	117	119	108	136	113	114	111		120
Sept.	87	82	104	103	98	99	114	116	108	129	114	114	123		123
Oct.	86	82	101	104	99	100	114	115	110	122	110	112	116		132
Nov.	89	84	104	103	96	100	119	115	109	124	113	111	115		123
Dec.	96	93	104	95	87	99	112	112	108	118	111	107	96		114
July-Sept. (av.)	94	91	104	106	101	99	117	118	110	130	113	115	117		123
Oct.-Dec. (av.)	90	86	103	101	94	100	115	114	109	121	111	110	109		123

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for January

In January 1975 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £131 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £261 million, seasonally adjusted, made up of a deficit of £312 million in trade in oil (that is, petroleum and petroleum products – for details see Table 12) and a surplus of £51 million in trade in non-oil goods. The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £130 million.

In the three months November 1974 to January 1975 the current account deficit totalled £776 million compared with £821 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

		Current balance	Visible balance: Trade in goods: Petroleum and petroleum products	Visible balance: Trade in goods: Other goods	Visible balance: Trade in goods: Total	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1974	1st qtr.	−978	−768	−525	−1,293	+315
	2nd qtr.	−949	−877	−445	−1,322	+373
	3rd qtr.	−773	−889	−265	−1,154	+381
	4th qtr.	−986	−961	−415	−1,376	+390*
1974	August	−250	−281	−96	−377	+127†
	Sept.	−230	−290	−67	−357	+127†
	October	−341	−341	−130	−471	+130*
	Nov.	−429	−320	−239	−559	+130*
	Dec.	−216	−299	−47	−346	+130*
1975	Jan.	−131	−312	+51	−261	+130*
1974	Aug.-Oct.	−821	−912	−293	−1,205	+384*
	Nov.-Jan. 1975	−776	−931	−235	−1,166	+390*

* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

† One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

VISIBLE TRADE

(a) Summary (figures on a balance of payments basis) (see Tables 1 and 3) In January there was a deficit on visible trade of £261 million seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £1,546

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

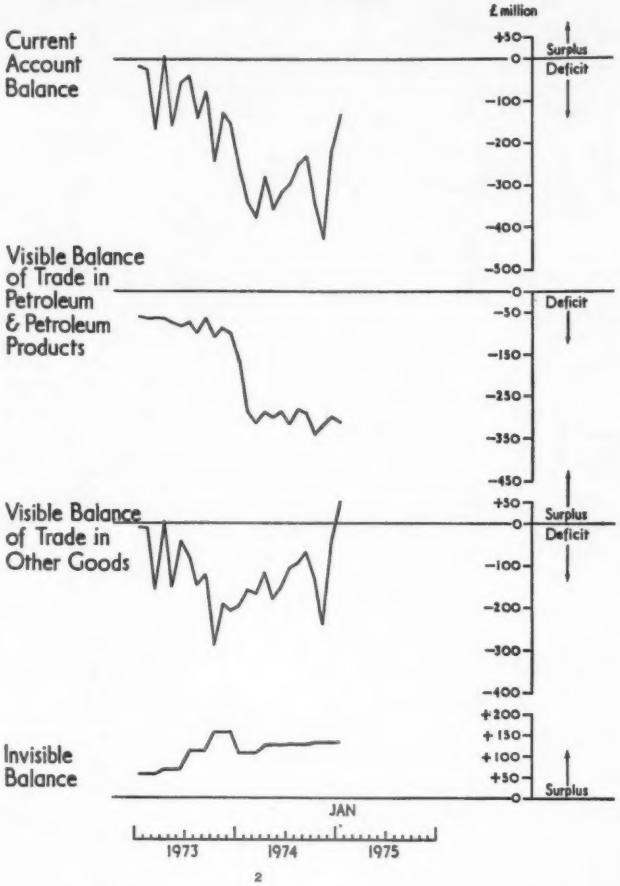
Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

		Exports (fob) r	Imports (fob) r	Visible balance r
1973		11,454	13,796	−2,342
1974		15,458	20,604	−5,146
1973	1st quarter	2,672	3,036	−364
	2nd quarter	2,775	3,183	−407
	3rd quarter	2,970	3,556	−586
	4th quarter	3,038	4,022	−984
1974	1st quarter	3,448	4,741	−1,293
	2nd quarter	3,877	5,200	−1,322
	3rd quarter	4,140	5,295	−1,154
	4th quarter	3,992	5,368	−1,376
1974	August	1,375	1,752	−377
	September	1,436	1,793	−357
	October	1,336	1,807	−471
	November	1,295	1,854	−559
	December	1,361	1,707	−346
1975	January p	1,546	1,807	−261
1974	Aug.-Oct.	4,146	5,352	−1,205
	Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	4,202	5,368	−1,166
	Percentage change*	+1.5	+0.5	

p Provisional estimates r Revised estimates

* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT ACCOUNT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM BALANCE OF PAYMENTS



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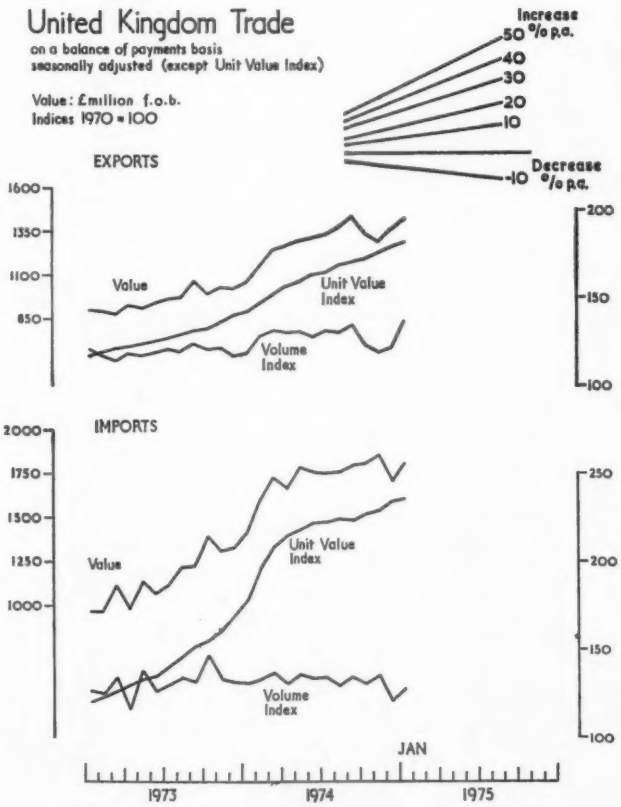


million and the value of imports was £1,807 million. The deficit was £85 million less than in December, reflecting a turn round in the non-oil trade balance from a deficit of £47 million to a surplus of £51 million. The deficit on trade in oil, at £312 million, was slightly higher than in December.

The improvement in trade in non-oil goods in January, which may in part be erratic, resulted primarily from a sharp upturn in the volume of exports which outweighed a rise in the volume of imports. The improvement also reflected a 1½ per cent rise in the terms of trade between December and January.

In the three months ended January, the visible trade deficit amounted to £1,166 million compared with £1,205 million in the previous three months. Between these periods the oil trade deficit increased slightly, from £912 million to £931 million, but this was more than offset by a fall in the non-oil trade deficit from £293 million to £235 million.

The reduction in the visible trade deficit in the latest three months resulted from a 1 per cent rise in the value of exports to £4,202 million with the value of imports little changed at £5,368 million. The terms of trade rose by 1½ per cent with the export unit value index rising by 5 per cent and the import unit value index rising by 3½ per cent. In terms of volume, both exports and imports were 2½ per cent lower in the three months ended January than in the previous three monthly period.

TABLE 2 Invisible trade¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1973	7,971	6,814	+1,157
1973 1st quarter	1,740	1,581	+159
2nd quarter	1,870	1,668	+202
3rd quarter	2,058	1,728	+330
4th quarter	2,303	1,837	+466
1974 1st quarter	2,387	2,072	+315
2nd quarter	2,388	2,015	+373
3rd quarter	2,410	2,029	+381
1974 October			+130*
November			+130*
December			+130*
1975 January			+130*

¶ See Note 1(g)
* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevent statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Import and export unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports	Imports
1973	125.7	139.4	90.1	119.2	131.5
1974 p	162.0	216.5	74.8	127.2	132.2
1973 1st quarter	119.2	123.2	96.7	117.7	129.0
2nd quarter	123.5	132.8	93.0	118.6	127.2
3rd quarter	128.6	146.4	87.9	121.0	132.4
4th quarter	135.7	161.8	83.9	119.8	137.4
1974 1st quarter	146.6	194.5	75.3	126.0	133.5
2nd quarter	159.1	218.3	72.9	129.4	133.4
3rd quarter	167.4	223.3	75.0	131.9	132.8
4th quarter p	174.9	229.9	76.1	121.5	129.1
1974 August	167.9	224.0	74.9	130.2	129.5
September	170.2	223.5	76.1	134.4	134.5
October p	171.6	226.9	75.6	123.1	130.4
November p	174.9	229.0	76.4	119.7	135.4
December p	178.3	233.9	76.2	121.8	121.5
1975 January p	181.4	235.1	77.2	136.0	127.1
1974 Aug.-Oct.	169.9	224.8	75.5	129.2	131.5
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	178.2	232.7	76.6	125.8	128.0
Percentage change	+5	+3.5	+1.5	−2.5	−2.5

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.

(b) EXPORTS (OVERSEAS TRADE STATISTICS BASIS)

(i) **Area analysis** (see Table 4)

In the three months ended January deliveries to the EEC were 1 per cent lower than in the previous three months but there were increases of 1 per cent in exports to the rest of Western Europe, 2½ per cent to North America and 8½ per cent to the other developed countries (ie Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan). Exports to oil exporting countries fell by 4 per cent but exports to other developing countries rose by 8½ per cent. Exports to the centrally planned economies were 2½ per cent lower.

(ii) **Commodity analysis** (see Tables 5, 6 and 7)

Exports of manufactured goods rose by 1½ per cent in value in the latest three months, but there was a 4 per cent fall in volume. This pattern of higher prices and reduced volumes of deliveries was a common feature of most of the broad commodity groups within manufactures. The value of deliveries of machinery increased by 6 per cent, but there was a 2 per cent fall in volume. The value of exports of road motor vehicles rose by 7½ per cent, whilst exports of transport equipment fell by 12 per cent which was accounted for by the erratic delivery of ships. In total, there was a 7 per cent rise in the price of 'Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment' while the volume of these exports fell by 7½ per cent. There was a fall in the value of exports of chemicals of 1 per cent with a 6½ per cent increase in price masking a 4½ per cent fall in volume. Amongst other semi-manufactures exports of textiles declined by 6½ per cent in value and 11 per cent in volume whilst there was a 3½ per cent rise in the value of exports of metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures which, unlike the other major groups, reflected both increased volume as well as higher prices.

In contrast to the rise in exports of manufactured goods, the value of shipments of non-manufactures was 7 per cent lower in November/January than in the previous three months, mainly resulting from a reduction in the volume of deliveries of fuels and basic materials.

(c) IMPORTS (OVERSEAS TRADE STATISTICS BASIS)

(i) **Commodity analysis** (see Tables 8, 10 and 11)

Among the major commodity groups, imports of food, beverages and tobacco increased by 14 per cent in value terms between August/October and November/January, the main impetus coming from higher prices. The value of arrivals of fuels and industrial materials fell, by 4½ per cent and 3 per cent respectively, and in each case a reduced volume was the main contributory factor. Among industrial materials, there was a particularly sharp drop in the volume of chemical imports – by some 13 per cent – and although prices increased the import value in the latest three months fell by some 11 per cent. Finished manufactures in total increased by 7 per cent in value terms, almost entirely due to higher prices which occurred in all the categories of this group of commodities. Imports of machinery increased by 2½ per cent in volume (7½ per cent by value) but the greatest volume rise occurred in 'Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment', reflecting the arrival of three large aircraft in November.

(ii) **Area analysis** (see Table 9)

Among the major sources of imports, the value of arrivals from the EEC increased by 3½ per cent in the three months ended January, compared with the previous three months, while imports from the rest of Western Europe fell by 4 per cent. Shipments from North America rose by 4½ per cent, but there was a fall of 2 per cent in imports from other developed countries. Among the developing countries, imports from oil exporting countries were 5 per cent lower in the latest three monthly period while those from other developing countries increased by 7 per cent. Deliveries from the centrally planned economies in aggregate fell by 9 per cent.

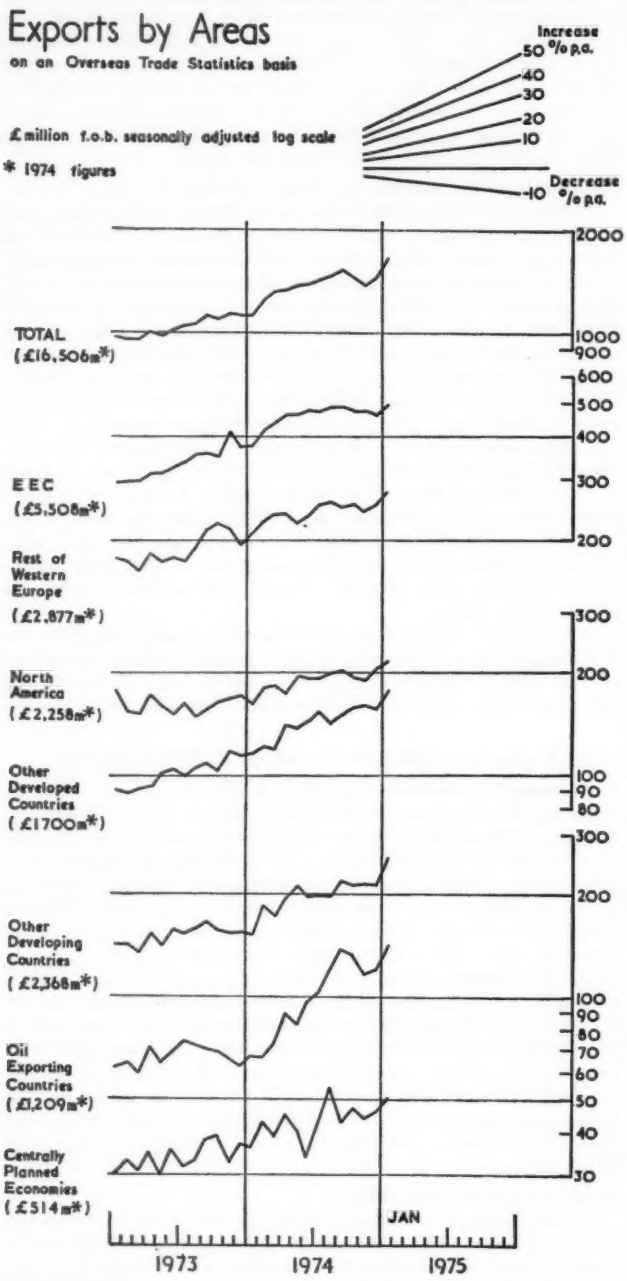
INVISIBLE TRADE (see Table 2)

The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £130 million with monthly credits and debits of the order of £800 million and £700 million respectively.

NOTES

1(a) Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally

adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Table 13 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly financed by a special Exim Bank credit (the values involved are now small). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual *Pink Book, United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1963-73* (Table 6 and pages 62-66) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.



Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

1(b). The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (Table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 4 to 11 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and other commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in Tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

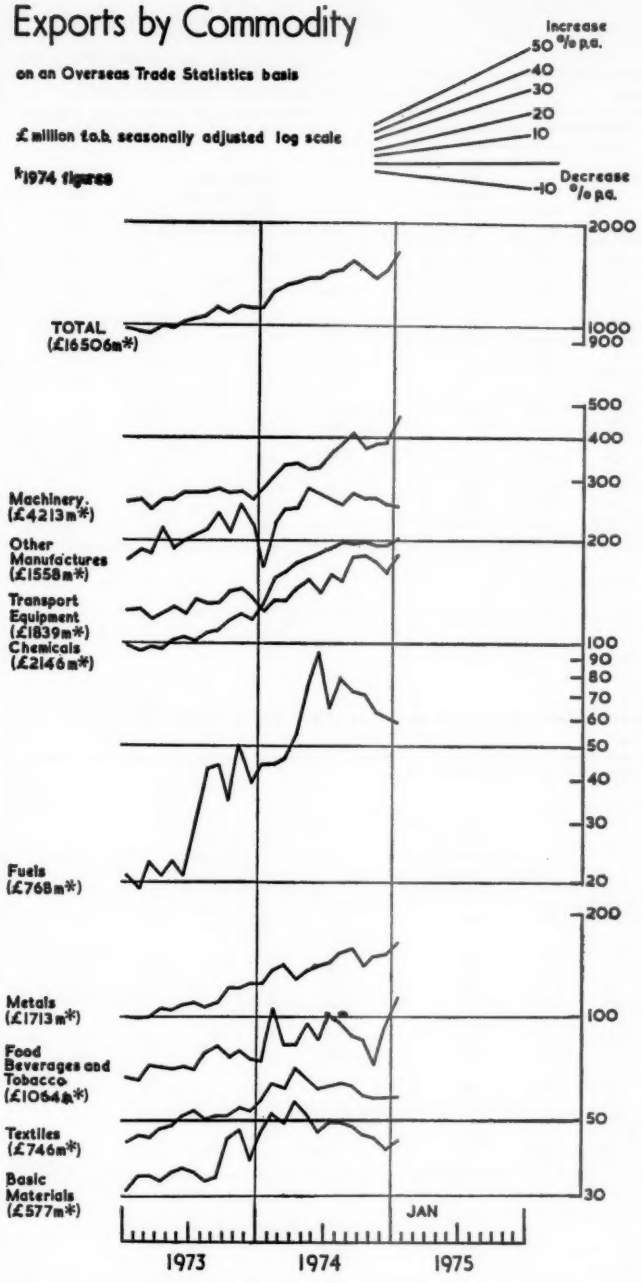
1(e) Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas trade statistics basis Seasonally adjusted values £ million fob[b]

	Total r	Developed countries: EEC r	Rest of W Europe	North America r	Other	Developing countries: Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1974	16,494	5,508	2,877	2,258	1,700	1,209	2,368	514
1974 1st quarter	3,687	1,236	675	523	357	206	509	118
2nd quarter	4,096	1,404	699	559	422	270	604	119
3rd quarter	4,427	1,454	758	592	446	364	615	140
4th quarter	4,284	1,413	745	584	475	369	639	137
1974 November	1,383	476	242	190	160	117	214	44
December	1,453	461	251	202	156	120	212	46
1975 January p	1,645	499	271	216	175	141	256	51
1974 August-October	4,444	1,455	758	593	452	394	630	144
November-January 1975 p	4,481	1,437	764	608	491	378	682	141
Percentage change	+1	−1	+1	+ 2.5	+ 8.5	−4	+ 8.5	− 2.5

¶ See Note 1(b) r Revised estimates p Provisional estimates

Exports by Commodity



accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording had indicated that, since the beginning of 1972, there had been no need to make adjustments to the export figures for a shortfall in documentation. As the above article indicated, some errors in recording remained, whereby either the need to submit a document was overlooked or, on the other hand, two documents might be submitted for the same goods. The effect of these errors had been substantially reduced under the present system so that the small elements of under- and over-recording more or less balanced out, leaving the total recorded figure of exports in each month virtually correct.

Since the autumn of 1973, however, there has been evidence of a slight deterioration causing a small net amount of under-recording. The sums involved have been very small, amounting to only about half of 1 per cent, that is around £6 million or £7 million a month by mid-1974. Because the monitoring of the export documentation in any month takes some time to carry out, the available evidence extends only to about the middle of the year. It has been provisionally assumed that an adjustment of the same amount is warranted for more recent months, and it will be continued until the evidence suggests otherwise. Meanwhile, HM Customs and Excise are taking further action to improve the lodgment of documents.

In view of the evidence at hand, an adjustment of £6 million to £7 million has now been made for each month from October 1973, with smaller notional sums in July to September 1973. The adjustment (which is included in the coverage adjustments described at Note 1(a)) amounted to £85 million in the 12 monthly period ended January 1975.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(g) Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel, and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private trade for several reasons: the data are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves

TABLE 5 Exports: Commodity classes¶ Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1974 r	16,494	1,064	577	768	13,685	6,052	4,213	1,305	535	2,146	1,713	746	3,027	410
1974 1st quarter r	3,687	263	147	134	3,032	1,308	928	282	110	448	405	183	639	89
2nd quarter r	4,096	264	154	223	3,364	1,441	990	311	128	531	409	198	808	110
3rd quarter r	4,427	286	146	217	3,649	1,648	1,149	341	148	584	455	190	791	100
4th quarter r	4,284	252	130	194	3,639	1,655	1,146	371	148	583	443	175	789	111
1974 November r	1,383	73	44	63	1,198	548	383	129	47	192	150	58	266	37
December r	1,453	93	41	60	1,219	559	389	118	43	192	152	58	257	36
1975 January p	1,645	114	44	59	1,350	646	464	137	48	203	165	58	253	40
1974 Aug.-Oct. r	4,444	270	142	223	3,705	1,689	1,167	357	155	593	452	186	795	97
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	4,481	280	129	183	3,767	1,753	1,236	384	137	586	467	174	776	113
Percentage change	+1	+4	−9.5	−18	+1.5	+4	+6	+7.5	−12	−1	+3.5	−6.5	−2.5	+16

¶ See Note 1(b) r Revised estimates p Provisional estimates * Not seasonally adjusted

TABLE 6 Exports: Volume indices
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1974	132.9	142	115	101	135	125	127	120	169	116	125	154
1974 1st quarter	131.8	154	136	79	130	116	122	109	172	125	140	141
2nd quarter	133.4	140	120	112	136	123	124	117	168	113	136	167
3rd quarter	138.7	150	106	113	139	134	135	131	173	113	120	158
4th quarter	127.7	125	98	101	132	126	127	124	163	112	104	151
1974 November	124.8	109	100	104	131	126	128	128	163	112	103	151
December	127.3	136	95	89	130	124	125	114	156	116	102	148
1975 January p	142.2	166	103	88	138	140	146	131	168	120	102	140
1974 Aug.-Oct.	136.5	138	105	116	139	135	135	135	170	112	115	155
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	131.4	137	99	94	133	130	133	124	162	116	102	146
Percentage change	−3.5	−1	−5	−20	−4	−3.5	−2	−7.5	−4.5	+3	−11	−5.5

p Provisional estimates

TABLE 7 Exports: Unit value indices
Overseas trade statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1974	160.7	148	181	381	155	153	155	149	169	164	159	147
1974 1st quarter	146.4	136	163	332	142	143	144	140	143	143	142	138
2nd quarter	159.1	148	189	392	153	149	151	146	168	164	158	143
3rd quarter	167.4	154	197	385	162	158	162	150	179	177	166	150
4th quarter	174.9	157	193	395	170	168	172	160	191	179	175	157
1974 November	175.0	157	194	393	170	168	172	160	190	180	175	157
December	178.3	158	192	408	174	172	176	165	196	180	179	158
1975 January p	181.4	161	189	419	176	174	179	165	197	184	179	161
1974 Aug.-Oct.	169.9	156	196	385	165	161	165	152	183	178	169	153
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	178.2	159	192	407	173	172	176	163	194	181	178	159
Percentage change	+5	+2	−2	+5.5	+5.5	+6.5	+6.5	+7	+6.5	+2	+5.5	+4

p Provisional estimates

TABLE 8 Imports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1974 r	23,117	3,779	4,627	8,953	2,580	1,584	4,789	5,555	3,902	2,969	645	287	1,653	203
1974 1st quarter r	5,349	858	1,034	2,098	613	335	1,150	1,324	913	731	145	49	411	42
2nd quarter r	5,857	928	1,202	2,280	659	392	1,228	1,406	979	743	149	85	427	56
3rd quarter r	5,926	988	1,184	2,310	673	445	1,192	1,381	980	723	181	66	401	50
4th quarter r	5,985	1,005	1,207	2,265	635	412	1,219	1,443	1,030	772	170	87	414	55
1974 November r	2,016	325	407	766	214	145	407	487	346	256	53	46	141	16
December r	1,929	368	358	723	205	119	399	483	344	264	61	17	140	20
1975 January p	2,066	390	399	747	216	132	398	514	366	271	61	30	148	22
1974 Aug.-Oct. r	5,978	947	1,217	2,309	661	444	1,204	1,388	990	735	181	49	398	52
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	6,011	1,084	1,165	2,235	635	396	1,204	1,484	1,056	791	175	93	428	58
Percentage change		+0.5	+14	−4.5	−3	−4	−11	—	+7	+6.5	+7.5	−3	+92	+7.5	+10

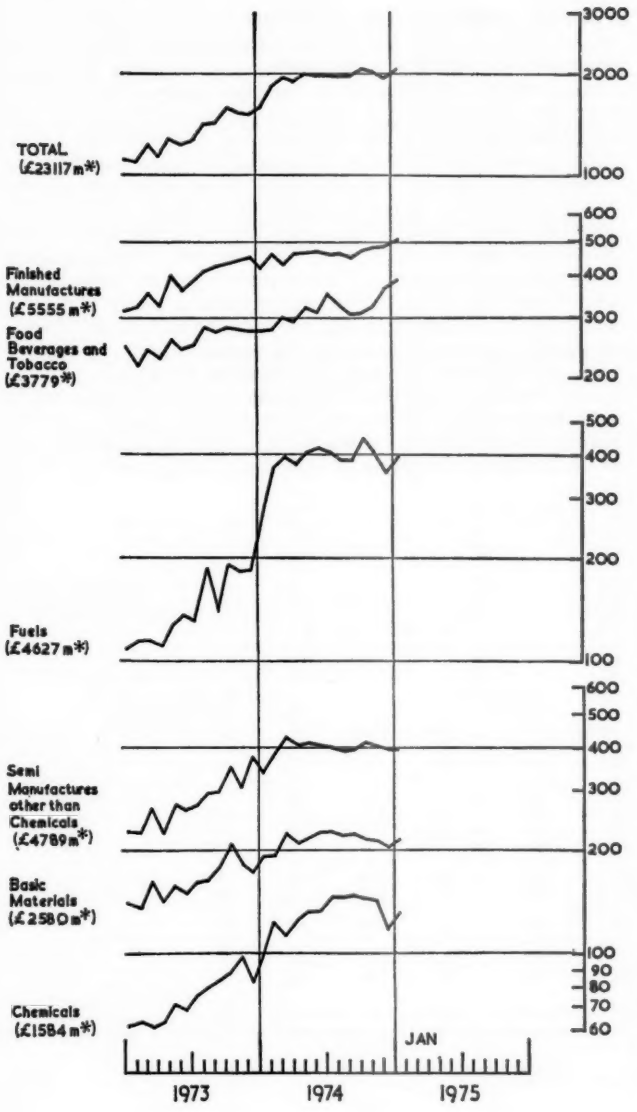
¶ See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates. * Not seasonally adjusted.

Imports by Commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted log scale

* 1974 figures



Imports by Areas

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million c.i.f. seasonally adjusted logscale

*1974 figures

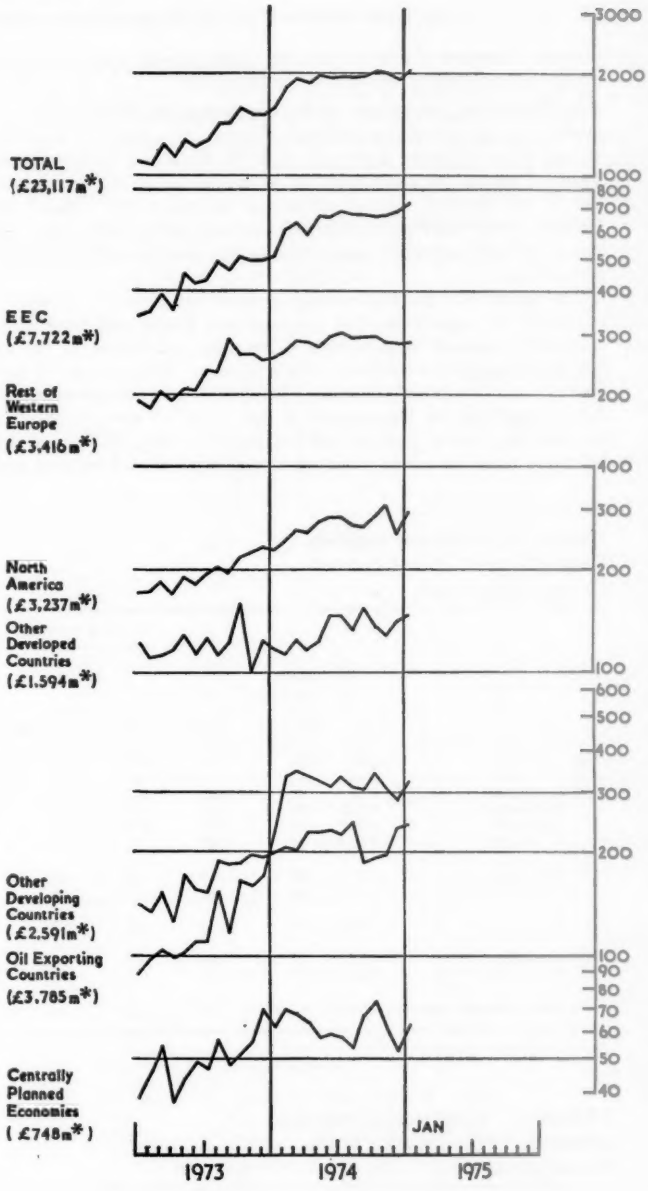


TABLE 9 **Imports: Areas**¶ Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

	Total r	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economics
		EEC r	Rest of West Europe	North America r	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1974	23,117	7,722	3,416	3,237	1,594	3,785	2,591	748
1974 1st quarter	5,349	1,751	810	734	358	913	609	199
2nd quarter	5,857	1,915	857	825	390	975	691	181
3rd quarter	5,926	2,037	888	824	437	956	664	179
4th quarter	5,985	2,020	861	854	409	940	626	188
1974 November	2,016	668	284	310	129	310	196	62
December	1,929	688	281	257	142	288	237	53
1975 January p	2,066	723	283	295	147	320	241	63
1974 August-October	5,978	2,013	883	826	427	964	629	195
November-January 1975 p	6,011	2,079	848	862	418	918	675	177
Percentage change	+0.5	+3.5	−4	+4.5	−2	−5	+7	−9

¶ See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Current account of the UK balance of payments continued

include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

1(h) Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in Tables 5 and 8. Import figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in Table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in Tables 5 and 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

The average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

1(i) Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings. reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply). Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the volume of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and con-

TABLE 10 Volume indices
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1974 1st quarter	133.9	96	108	131	99	148	149	191	186	193	171	204
2nd quarter	135.5	100	107	130	95	154	148	196	194	191	201	203
3rd quarter	134.0	102	105	128	91	162	144	187	188	182	197	185
4th quarter	130.3	97	105	125	89	143	145	183	187	183	200	172
1974 November	132.1	95	107	126	90	153	144	183	186	181	229	178
December	124.3	100	94	121	86	123	144	181	186	188	187	167
1975 January p	130.5	107	103	124	93	137	141	191	193	187	202	186
1974 Aug.-Oct.	133.2	97	108	127	90	157	144	184	186	181	181	179
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	129.0	101	101	123	90	137	143	185	188	185	206	177
Percentage change	−3	+3.5	−7.5	−3	−1	−13	−1	+0.5	+1	+2.5	+14	−1

p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 11 Unit value indices
Overseas trade statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1974	210.3	193	468	190	208	207	172	152	147	143	163	164
1974 1st quarter	190.2	183	393	171	184	176	160	145	142	140	153	152
2nd quarter	211.3	191	485	190	207	201	174	151	146	142	163	163
3rd quarter	216.2	193	482	197	218	217	177	158	152	148	168	173
4th quarter	222.3	202	494	199	219	230	177	166	159	155	174	185
1974 November	221.3	199	488	200	220	230	177	167	161	158	173	184
December	226.1	211	502	199	219	234	176	169	161	157	179	189
1975 January p	228.7	214	516	199	218	238	176	170	163	159	180	189
1974 Aug.-Oct.	217.7	194	483	198	220	223	177	160	154	150	170	177
Nov.-Jan. 1975 p	225.4	208	502	199	219	234	176	169	162	158	177	188
Percentage change	+3.5	+7	+3.5	+0.5	−0.5	+5	—	+5.5	+5	+5.5	+4.5	+6

p Provisional estimates.

sequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices will be published in the April issue of *Economic Trends*.

1(j) Definition of areas. The areas used in Tables 4 and 9 of this article comprise the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark, Greenland and Irish Republic.

Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).

North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands.

Other developed countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.

Centrally planned economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, North Vietnam and Outer Mongolia.

Oil exporting countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Other developing countries – All other countries.

2. Overseas Trade Statistics.

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for January with cumulative totals will be published on 27 February* and further analysis of the figures will be found in Tables 122 to 139 in the Monthly Digest for March†, due to be published in the second week of April.

* Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, published by HMSO, price £2.50 (Annual Subscription £33.60).

† Monthly Digest of Statistics, published by HMSO, price 63p (Annual Subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage, £8.60).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶
On a balance of payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	Million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million	£ million
1973	−941	1,281	941	111.5	8.4	340	341
1974	−3,495	4,191	3,406	109.4	31.1	786	696
1973 1st quarter	−188	244	171	24.6	7.0	73	56
2nd quarter	−220	278	205	27.9	7.4	73	58
3rd quarter	−237	347	242	30.4	8.0	105	110
4th quarter	−296	413	324	28.6	11.3	89	117
1974 1st quarter	−768	897	730	29.0	25.2	167	129
2nd quarter	−877	1,083	895	28.0	32.0	189	206
3rd quarter r	−889	1,082	869	26.0	33.4	214	193
4th quarter r	−961	1,129	912	26.4	34.6	217	168
1974 November r	−320	374	304	8.8	34.5	70	54
December r	−299	352	280	8.1	34.6	72	52
1975 January p	−312	362	284	8.2	34.6	78	50
1974 August-October	−912	1,109	907	26.8	33.9	202	197
November-January 1975 p	−931	1,088	868	25.1	34.6	220	156
Percentage change		−2	−4.5	−6.5	+2	+9	−21

¶ See Note 1(h). p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 13

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted*			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted*			
	Overseas trade statistics basis fob	Overseas trade statistics basis fob r	Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis fob r	Overseas trade statistics basis cif	Overseas trade statistics basis cif r	Adjustments to BOP basis: Freight, etc.	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis r
1973	12,454.3	12,454	−1,000	11,454	15,839.8	15,840	−1,372	−672	13,796
1974	16,494.3	16,494	−1,036	15,458	23,116.7	23,117	−1,656	−856	20,604
1973 1st quarter	2,827.7	2,875	− 203	2,672	3,568.9	3,442	−306	−100	3,036
2nd quarter	3,074.7	2,996	−220	2,775	3,722.5	3,668	−330	−156	3,183
3rd quarter	3,056.1	3,234	−264	2,970	3,939.6	4,129	−353	−220	3,556
4th quarter	3,496.5	3,350	−312	3,038	4,623.4	4,601	−384	−195	4,022
1974 1st quarter	3,583.4	3,687	−238	3,448	5,332.0	5,349	−415	−192	4,741
2nd quarter	4,199.4	4,096	−219	3,877	5,994.9	5,857	−412	−245	5,200
3rd quarter	4,215.7	4,427	−287	4,140	5,762.1	5,926	−422	−209	5,295
4th quarter	4,495.8	4,284	−292	3,992	6,027.7	5,985	−406	−211	5,368
1974 August	1,337.5	1,468	−93	1,375	1,812.0	1,968	−137	−79	1,752
September	1,358.8	1,528	−92	1,436	1,861.7	1,970	−138	−39	1,793
October	1,609.2	1,448	−113	1,336	2,147.8	2,040	−138	−95	1,807
November	1,443.9	1,383	−87	1,295	2,009.4	2,016	−135	−27	1,854
December	1,449.5	1,453	−92	1,361	1,901.8	1,929	−134	−89	1,707
1975 January p	1,568.9	1,645	−99	1,546	2,187.0	2,066	−156	−103	1,807
1974 August-October	4,305.5	4,444	−297	4,146	5,821.5	5,978	−413	−213	5,352
November-January 1975 p	4,462 3	4,481	−278	4,202	6,098.2	6,011	−424	−219	5,368
Percentage change	+3.5	+1		+1.5	+5	+0.5			+0.5

* Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Wholesale price indices in January

In January the provisional price index for home sales of manufactured products rose by 2¾ per cent to 172.0 (1970=100). As in December the most significant items were increases in food prices together with higher prices for petroleum products and vehicles. These again accounted for over half of the monthly increase.

The rise of 3½ per cent in the provisional price index for the output of the food manufacturing industry was mainly due to higher prices for sugar, the only decreases for the month occurring in the prices of vegetable and animal oils.

The provisional price index of materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry fell by ¼ per cent to 221.7 last month. This index has risen by ¾ per cent in the three months November to January. An increase in January of ¼ per cent in the price of basic materials for manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries was more than offset by lower prices for the food manufacturing industry. Imported commodities (especially cereals) and milk for liquid consumption showed decreases in price with only sugar in the food index showing a significant rise in price during January.

The increase in the price index for basic materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries was largely due to higher prices for crude oil and woodpulp. The continued fall in prices of imported steel, copper and silver restricted the size of the increase. There has been no change in the provisional price index of fuel purchased by manufacturing industry in January.

Output of broad sectors of industry: home sales

Price increases for most types of steel produced by the public sector were largely responsible for an increase of 12 per cent in the provisional price index for January for the steel industries. This is the first large increase in this index since April and follows a period of six months during which the index increased by only 4½ per cent.

Notes on wholesale price indices

(1) Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 4 April 1974.

(2) The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

(3) All the index numbers are compiled *exclusive* of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) *are included*. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by broad sectors of industry.

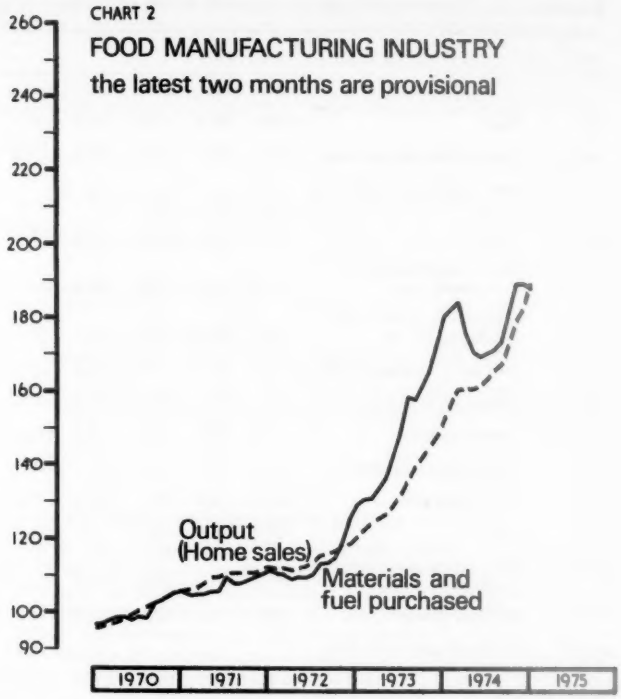
(4) **Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3549 (Engineering), 5216 (Chemicals, Steel, Building Materials, etc.), 3548 (Textiles, Clothing, Timber, Paper, etc.), 5844 (Imported Commodities), 3544 Tables 1 and 2 indices.**

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1973	1974				1974								1975
		4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr. p	Jan.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p	Jan. p
	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry														
Orders III to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	167.6	212.5	213.7	212.9	222.1	209.5	211.7	212.3	213.7	212.8	220.1	223.8	222.5	221.7
	Basic materials	173.1	222.0	221.2	219.7	228.2	219.0	218.8	219.3	220.4	219.4	226.5	229.8	228.4	227.5
	๏ Fuel	114.9	122.4	142.7	147.9	164.2	118.5	144.0	144.8	148.8	150.1	161.3	165.1	166.2	166.2
Orders IV to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	165.0	223.2	231.2	230.7	237.2	219.2	229.9	280.6	231.6	229.9	236.9	238.2	236.6	235.1
	Basic materials other than fuel	172.1	237.6	243.7	242.4	247.8	233.5	242.0	242.7	243.4	241.1	247.6	248.8	246.9	247.0
	Materials and fuels purchased by Selected Broad Sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	166.6	182.5	172.1	171.5	186.9	180.8	169.2	170.0	171.2	173.5	181.9	189.5	189.4	188.2
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	160.3	175.4	167.2	165.7	180.9	172.7	164.1	164.6	165.1	167.5	175.4	183.7	183.5	183.7
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	154.5	200.7	214.1	219.3	227.1	193.1	214.6	217.4	220.2	220.2	227.0	227.0	227.2	230.0
311 and 312	Steel industries	131.7	143.2	172.3	183.9	200.4	137.9	174.1	180.8	183.8	187.0	197.4	200.8	203.0	206.0
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	139.7	157.2	177.7	181.2	184.0	152.6	179.6	180.3	181.4	181.8	183.6	184.5	184.0	192.6
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	142.5	160.7	178.9	165.9	163.9	152.0	174.2	166.8	167.5	163.4	163.4	164.8	163.6	166.5
361	Electrical machinery industry	139.5	157.3	177.3	174.0	173.7	151.2	176.6	174.5	174.8	172.8	173.4	174.4	173.4	179.5
Order XIII	Textile industries	177.4	192.2	191.2	190.0	186.5	191.8	190.1	192.3	191.2	186.4	185.8	186.3	187.5	188.0
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	148.0	159.3	167.4	171.9	174.6	156.2	168.9	171.3	171.5	172.9	174.4	174.6	174.8	175.8
Order XVII	Timber industries	194.8	209.2	217.1	218.4	217.0	205.6	218.0	217.8	218.5	218.8	217.6	216.9	216.5	216.6
481 to 484	Paper industries	135.2	157.8	173.0	203.0	215.4	153.0	175.3	201.2	203.3	204.5	213.2	214.8	218.1	228.8
Order XX	Construction materials	149.0	162.2	175.6	179.8	183.6	156.5	178.1	178.5	179.5	181.3	182.2	183.6	185.0	18.80
Part of Order XX	House building materials	154.5	166.0	177.2	181.9	186.6	161.5	179.3	180.0	181.7	184.0	185.3	186.6	188.0	191.4

๏ Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity. Crude oil and coal for carbonising are included in basic materials.



It is possible that certain manufacturers have maintained the traditional price review at the beginning of the year. In addition, there were price increases for many types of vehicles, leading to the increase, on provisional figures, of 2½ per cent in the index for engineering and allied industries. The output prices of the paper industries increased by 3 per cent on provisional figures for January following an increase of 4 per cent in the three months October to December.

Most other provisional index numbers rose by 1½ to 2 per cent in January with only the textile industries showing an increase of less than 1 per cent.

Material and fuel purchased by broad sectors of industry

Large increases in the prices of home produced steel, although partly offset by lower prices for imported steel, were mainly responsible for an increase of 4¾ per cent in the provisional index number of the mechanical engineering industries in January. The steel price rises were also partly offset by a continued fall in the price of of copper and copper products, thus limiting the increase in the provisional price index for the electrical engineering industry to 1¾ per cent in January. A similar effect was present in the index for the electrical machinery industry where there were also higher prices for liquid fuel and insulating oil resulting in an increase of

(*Continued on page 473*)

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1973	1974				1974								1975
		4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr. p	Jan.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p	Jan. p
Orders III to XIX	Output of Manufactured Products	129.1	138.3	148.9	156.1	164.8	134.2	151.2	153.5	156.1	158.6	162.2	164.8	167.4	172.0
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industries other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	132.1	142.3	153.5	162.0	170.9	137.6	156.2	159.1	161.9	164.9	168.6	170.7	173.3	178.0
	Output of Selected Broad Sectors of Industry														
211 to 229	Products of the food manufacturing industries	145.3	156.9	161.0	165.6	178.0	152.7	161.4	163.1	166.0	167.7	172.4	179.1	182.6	189.2
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Products of the food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	138.7	149.6	154.7	161.2	174.3	146.0	155.7	158.2	161.8	163.7	168.3	175.7	179.0	186.0
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	122.5	135.5	150.3	158.2	167.2	129.4	152.0	154.2	158.9	161.5	165.2	167.0	169.5	172.0
311 and 312	Steel industries	134.4	145.9	179.5	186.4	189.6	143.4	182.5	185.5	186.0	187.7	188.8	189.6	190.5	213.6
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	130.0	136.8	146.7	155.9	165.3	133.7	150.2	153.0	155.8	159.0	162.8	165.2	168.0	172.0
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	131.0	138.3	148.1	157.8	165.9	135.3	151.3	154.7	157.8	160.8	163.8	166.0	167.8	173.8
Order IX	Electrical engineering	124.6	131.5	139.9	146.4	153.5	129.2	141.9	144.7	145.9	148.6	151.1	153.3	156.2	159.0
Order XIII	Textile industries	142.4	151.6	160.4	166.5	170.1	148.6	162.0	165.2	166.6	167.8	169.6	170.1	170.5	172.0
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	127.3	133.7	138.7	143.7	149.1	132.1	139.2	142.0	142.8	146.4	148.3	149.3	149.8	152.2
Order XVII	Timber industries	153.5	165.8	174.7	182.0	187.3	161.6	177.4	179.7	182.4	184.0	185.9	187.3	188.6	192.4
481 to 484	Paper industries	131.4	145.1	160.0	180.0	192.2	139.4	163.9	173.6	180.0	186.5	190.0	192.3	194.4	200.3
Order XX	New construction‡	161	170	180	190 p			180			190 p				

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of the Environment*).

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1973	1974			
		Dec.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p
101	Coal	138.8	181.6	226.2	233.2	232.9
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	134.2	192.1	196.1	197.8	199.0
103	Sand and gravel – ex-pit or works	124.9	148.1	149.6	152.8	152.8
240	Tobacco	91.7	114.9	115.1	115.6	116.9
262	Motor spirit, Two star (including duty)	119.2	148.2	148.2	148.2	159.1
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)●	153.2	250.9	250.9	250.9	270.1
	Derv fuel (including duty)●	120.0	142.6	142.6	142.6	145.9
263	Lubricating oil and greases	152.5	194.4	194.4	194.4	194.4
271	General chemicals	119.5	169.0	169.8	170.4	172.9
272	Pharmaceutical preparations	114.8	133.5	135.2	137.7	139.6
273	Toilet preparations	125.9	140.1	142.7	145.0	145.6
274	Paint	133.9	167.3	177.2	179.5	185.5
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	109.1	164.8	170.0	172.8	173.5
279/3	Explosive, fireworks, etc.	137.8	165.5	165.5	166.8	175.7
311/12	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	143.4	184.1	184.1	184.1	184.1
	Tinplate	143.4	203.5	198.6	198.6	198.6
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplate, forgings and castings)	140.8	189.3	190.7	191.0	191.8
	Steel sheet piling	144.2	193.3	193.3	193.3	193.3
	Heavy steel bars and sections	143.8	194.5	194.5	194.5	194.5
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	153.2	196.4	198.6	198.6	198.6
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	132.4	197.6	199.7	199.7	199.7
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	137.4	180.2	183.1	190.7	195.0
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	131.8	190.1	190.3	193.8	203.6
321	Aluminium: Rolled	123.2	156.7	156.7	157.0	157.4
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	123.9	156.3	156.3	156.4	156.4
	Aluminium: Castings	132.6	178.7	179.3	180.5	179.9
	Aluminium: Forgings	116.9	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0
322	Brass ingots	145.2	137.6	136.7	139.1	136.8
331	Agricultural machinery	141.9	168.6	172.5	174.8	176.3
332	Metal-working machine tools‡	133.9	172.7	183.1	183.6	186.4
333	Pumps, valves, compressors fluid power equipment†	133.2	160.1	164.3	167.7	169.5
336	Construction and earth moving equipment	133.4	157.4	161.2	164.4	166.2
368	Domestic electrical appliances	118.4	135.9	137.8	139.7	141.0
390	Engineers' cutting tools: non-diamond	122.5	140.0	145.2	146.5	146.9
	Hacksaw blades	129.2	142.6	144.5	148.3	148.7
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	116.4	134.4	134.5	134.5	134.5
	Engineers' cutting tools	122.4	138.1	144.9	145.8	146.1
391	Hand tools and implements	135.2	166.5 r	167.3 r	177.2	178.8
392	Cutlery and tableware	131.3	157.7	160.8	161.2	162.8
411	Man-made fibres production	107.4	151.5	153.9	154.0	154.3
412, 414/5 and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	137.2	162.1	169.5	167.7	166.8
412	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	178.5	189.7	189.3	187.8	182.7
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	165.0	201.5	200.0	198.0	195.2
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	148.4	186.8	188.2	188.2	188.9
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	194.0	184.6	182.3	180.9	180.2
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	123.5	144.1	146.0	147.1	147.3
419	Carpets and rugs	136.5	160.2	160.9	160.9	162.9
431/1	Leather for footwear	157.5	152.8	153.5	153.4	153.4
441/449	Made-up clothing	126.0	144.0	145.9	147.1	147.3
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	134.3	153.8	156.4	157.0	157.7
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	127.8	171.9	172.2	173.7	174.9
461/2	Non-refractory goods, including building bricks	139.9	171.2	174.7	177.7	178.8
	Engineering bricks – *delivered*	163.0	205.5	207.8	216.5	216.5
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	126.0	144.7	152.2	154.3	154.8
463/2	Glass containers	124.7	151.8	160.0	174.4	175.0
464	Cement – *delivered in bulk*	127.4	162.5	163.0	163.0	172.4
471/1	Hardwood – home grown	209.3	224.3	223.2	223.0	227.2
471/2	Building joinery	173.7	202.9	204.6	205.3	206.4
472	Domestic furniture	138.3	161.4	162.3	164.4	166.8
473	Bedding, etc.	144.1	176.2	180.9	181.0	181.0
481	Paper and board	128.3	188.6	191.0	194.3	195.6
	Printings and writings (excluding newsprint)	128.1	180.1	184.3	189.5	189.9
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	134.0	186.6	190.0	191.6	192.3
483	Manufactured stationery	136.2	177.5	187.5	191.8	193.0
484/1	Wallpaper	131.8	184.5	187.7	187.7	200.1
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	124.0	158.0	164.7	166.5	166.7
492	Linoleum and felt base	117.4	153.8	153.8	154.7	158.3

● Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons of exclusive rebates.
r = Revised.

Revisions		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Metal-working	1973										131.4	133.2	133.9
Machine tools ‡	1974	136.8	139.9	147.8	152.3	156.1	162.3	167.7	169.4				
Pumps, valves, compressors	1973											131.7	133.2
Fluid power equipment †	1974	136.3	139.7	142.1	145.6	148.7	150.3	153.0	158.6				

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1974				1975
	Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Hides and skins	207.0	134.1	136.8	134.1	124.8 p
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	106.5	141.3	141.3	144.4	148.0
Copper‡	154.7	101.6	103.1	94.0	86.9
Lead‡	200.5	181.6	180.9	180.9	179.7
Nickel refined delivered§	127.2	146.6	148.6	147.5	147.9
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	191.8	208.0	207.9	201.2	212.6
Zinc‡	485.3	286.8	277.0	270.1	274.5
Zinc§	234.5	281.4	281.4	281.4	281.4
Natural rubber	264.4	143.5	127.1	136.4	129.7 p
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	151.1	168.6	168.6	168.6	..
Textiles:					
Cotton, raw	326.6	191.1	181.8	174.1	186.3
Wool, raw	314.7	186.4	189.4	189.4 p	187.2 p
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	241.0	237.3	234.4	231.8 p	231.4 p
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	225.4	231.1	230.5	229.9	229.9 p
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	258.3	254.3	251.7	250.1	248.0 p
Woodpulp, imported	163.0	236.2	238.2	243.5	264.1 p

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p = Provisional.

Price index numbers of materials purchased

1963 = 100

1968 SIC		1974		1975
		Nov.	Dec. p	Jan. p
Order III to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry	294.5	292.8	291.7
	Basic materials	304.1	302.3	301.1
	Fuel	219.1	220.6	220.6
Orders IV to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	323.0	320.8	321.5
	Basic materials other than fuel	341.8	339.2	339.3
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	236.3	236.2	234.8
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	279.4	279.7	283.1
311 to 312	Steel industries	253.9	256.6	260.4
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	252.1	251.4	263.1
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	253.8	251.9	256.4
361	Electrical machinery industry	257.5	256.0	265.1
Order XIII	Textile industries	211.9	213.2	213.8
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	212.8	213.0	214.2
Order XVII	Timber industries	291.8	291.3	291.5
481 to 484	Paper industries	284.0	288.3	302.5
Order XX	Construction materials	242.1	243.9	247.9
Part of Order XX	House building materials	247.6	249.5	254.0

Index numbers of wholesale prices

The index numbers of wholesale prices relating to 1970 = 100 supersede those previously published on the base 1963 = 100. For the convenience of those who use the index numbers in long-term contracts to take account of changes in the costs of materials, the Department of Industry will continue to publish indices relating to materials used in broad sectors of industry on the base 1963 = 100 until December 1975. From April 1973 the index numbers in the accompanying table have been given the month to month movements of the equivalent index in the 1970 = 100 Series. For users of other 1963 based index numbers who wish to continue the series in this way, multiplication factors will be provided on request.

3½ per cent in the provisional price index for January. The price increases for the mechanical engineering and electrical machinery industries follow a period of relative price stability in the previous six months while the index for electrical engineering is still 7 per cent lower than the average for the second quarter of 1974.

The price increases for steel products together with higher prices for sand and gravel and certain bricks were largely responsible for rises of 1½ and 1¾ per cent respectively in the provisional price indices for construction materials and housebuilding materials.

The increased prices for liquid fuel and petroleum products affected many indices, in particular the index number for the chemicals industry which rose by 1¼ per cent on provisional figures. In this industry the increase was to some extent offset by lower prices for vegetable and animal oils. The increases in price of liquid fuel and pig iron together accounted for over two-thirds of the increase of 1½ per cent in the provisional January price index for the steel industries.

The 5 per cent increase on provisional figures in January for the paper industries was largely due to increased prices for woodpulp. The price indices for the textile industries, clothing and footwear industries, and timber industries continued to show little change.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices[1]

1963 = 100

	Primary commodities											
	Total			Agricultural non-food			Non-ferrous metals			Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals [2]		
	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies
1973 1st quarter	156	181	144	153	177	141	174	201	161	157	182	145
2nd quarter	175	194	155	171	189	151	206	228	182	177	196	156
3rd quarter	199	225	169	203	229	172	242	273	205	202	228	171
4th quarter	221	260	197	208	245	185	267	314	238	225	265	200
1974 1st quarter	289	355	268	232	285	215	299	367	277	290	356	269
2nd quarter	293	343	261	232	271	206	342	399	304	297	347	265
3rd quarter	293	349	266	228	272	207	257	306	233	290	345	263
4th quarter [3]	*306*	*367*	*275*	*219*	*263*	*197*	*231*	*278*	*208*	*300*	*360*	*270*
1975 January [3]	*305*	*361*	*266*	*204*	*242*	*178*	*220*	*260*	*192*	*298*	*353*	*260*

[1] Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates.
[2] This combined index is not published as such by the UN.
[3] Projections by Department of Industry shown in italics.

Acquisitions and mergers in the fourth quarter of 1974

This note sets out the statistics of acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies up to the fourth quarter of 1974.

There was a further decline in acquisition activity during the fourth quarter, continuing the downward trend that started at the beginning of 1974. The number of companies acquired and the amount paid for them were again less than in any quarter since the collection of this data began in 1969. The financial press reported 85 acquisitions of industrial and commercial companies during the fourth quarter involving a total payment of £51 million, compared with 101 companies acquired for £75 million during the quarter before. During 1974 the quarterly average was 126 companies acquired for £127 million, compared with a quarterly average of 301 companies acquired for £326 million during 1973 (Table 1).

The average payment for acquisitions during the quarter was £0.6 million, compared with an average for the year as a whole of £1 million and an average of £1.1 million for 1973. The largest acquisition during the quarter was that of Peureula Investments by Chesterbeech for £10.9 million. This together with the second largest, in which London Merchant Securities acquired The New River Company for £6.7 million, accounted for 35 per cent of the total payments during the quarter. On the other hand, 79 companies were each acquired for £2 million or less and together accounted for 42 per cent of total payments (Table 2).

The importance of payment in cash increased again during the fourth quarter to 91 per cent of total expenditure, the highest proportion recorded (Table 3). The proportion accounted for by issues of ordinary shares fell sharply to 6 per cent, the lowest recorded. The proportion accounted for by issues of fixed interest securities remained low at 2 per cent.

Provisional figures show that eight foreign companies costing £4.4 million were acquired by United Kingdom companies during the quarter, of which four acquisitions costing £2.6 million were in the EEC countries. Four acquisitions of United Kingdom companies by foreign companies were reported. The total cost was £117.5 million, most of which was accounted for by the acquisition of St. Martin's Property Corporation by Kuwait Investment Office.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 are taken from a more detailed analysis published in Business Monitor M 7, Acquisitions and Mergers of Companies (obtainable from HMSO each quarter for an annual subscription of 52p). The Business Monitor also contains tables analysing acquisitions and mergers by industry.

Notes and definitions

This analysis of acquisitions and mergers involving industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom is based on reports in the financial press supplemented by special inquiries to companies to determine the form, value and timing of particular acquisitions.

Acquisitions and mergers involving financial companies (insurance, banking, etc.) are not covered in this note, although the Bank of England prepares an analysis of such acquisitions which is published in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin.*

The values shown relate in general to expenditure during the current period, excluding any previous investments in the company acquired. Where possible, values are market values, ie the cash paid or the market price at date of issue of shares or loan stock issued. Where market values are not available (as in the case of shares, etc., issued by non-quoted companies) or the cash consideration is not disclosed, acquisitions are in general valued at the net book value of the acquired company.

No method of valuing acquisitions is altogether free from objection and in comparing this series over time one must allow, in addition to the general inflation of values, for the considerable short-term fluctuations in share prices which will be reflected in a

Lindustries

INDUSTRIAL HOLDING COMPANY WITH MAIN DIVISIONS IN ENGINEERING, POLYMERS AND TEXTILES

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr W E Luke

Financial summary	1974 £000	1973 £000
Turnover	61,545	50,933
Profit before tax	4,835	4,607
Profit after tax	2,331	2,645
Net assets	23,779	22,119
Per ordinary share:		
Earned	11.69p	13.62p
Dividends	3.76p	3.49p
Net assets	116.3p	107.6p

- Record sales of over £60,000,000 and a record profit of over £5,000,000 before charging an additional contribution of £350,000 to the pension fund.
- The performance would have been even better had it not been for a serious loss at one of the Delanair factories (into which detailed investigation is now proceeding) and a smaller loss at Cowlishaw Walker.
- The three-day week and strikes at the factories of our principal customers in the motor trade also contributed to the decline in profits of the Engineering division despite the increase in sales.
- The injection of new capital into the Polymer division is progressively improving efficiency and working conditions in the companies concerned.
- The Textile division experienced a very successful year's trading and substantial profits were earned by foreign companies within the division.
- The Group's sizeable overseas interests all did very well with profits amounting to over 50% of the Group's total. The excellence of the Group's profit experience last year is attributable far more to overseas interests and exports than to the domestic trade, in which we have been inhibited by price restraints in passing on to our customers the true cost of our products.
- The current year is likely to be a difficult one for industry. The substantial overseas interests partially immunise the Group from the serious problems which face industry in the United Kingdom, but orders in our home-based factories are now on the decline and it is most unlikely that profits will be maintained at last year's level.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 14 March, 1975. Copies of the 1974 Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Group Secretary, Trevor House, 100 Brompton Road, London SW3 1EL.

series where a considerable proportion of expenditure takes the form of share exchanges which are valued at market prices.

Where the acquired company was a subsidiary of another United Kingdom company, it has been classified to the category of inter-group sales. Acquisitions between subsidiaries of the same company group, arising from internal reorganisation, have been ignored.

As far as possible, acquisitions are recorded at the date when the transaction is finalised (eg when a bid is declared unconditional). This date may be considerably later than the date when a bid is first announced in the press though preceding the date when the shares in the acquired company are surrendered.

The metric change

Going Metric is the quarterly bulletin of the Metrication Board. As the metric change is taking place around us *Going Metric* provides information of what is happening in Government, in industry, in education. *Going Metric* is free from the Information Office, J Metrication Board, 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LE.

TABLE 1 Acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Acquisitions of independent companies			Mergers†			Total			Sales of subsidiaries between company groups			Total number of acquisitions		
	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million
1969	593	742	961.6	2	2	7.6	595	744	969.2	91	102	99.7	686	846	1,068.9
1970	484	608	954.1	6	6	42.5	490	614	996.6	139	179	125.9	629	793	1,122.5
1971	498	620	745.6	—	—	—	498	620	745.6	189	264	165.5	687	884	911.1
1972	710	931	2,336.9	6	7	9.3	716	938	2,346.2	212	272	185.4	928	1,210	2,531.6
1973	722	949	1,055.2	2	2	2.3	724	951	1,057.5	205	254	246.8	929	1,205	1,304.3
1974	307	367	452.1	1	1	7.5	308	368	459.6	120	137	49.3	428	505	508.9
1972 1st quarter	156	207	426.0	2	2	0.1	158	209	426.1	53	69	39.6	211	278	465.7
2nd quarter	192	260	375.2	3	3	1.5	195	263	376.7	52	63	44.8	247	326	421.5
3rd quarter	166	220	666.2	1	2	7.7	167	222	673.9	50	63	52.2	217	285	726.1
4th quarter	196	244	869.5	—	—	—	196	244	869.5	57	77	48.8	253	321	918.3
1973 1st quarter	195	278	280.4	—	—	—	195	278	280.4	63	84	43.3	258	362	323.7
2nd quarter	164	203	179.4	—	—	—	164	203	179.4	43	53	26.2	207	256	205.6
3rd quarter	173	224	297.4	2	2	2.3	175	226	299.7	40	50	132.0	215	276	431.7
4th quarter	190	244	298.0	—	—	—	190	244	298.0	59	67	45.3	249	311	343.3
1974 1st quarter	116	149	231.3	—	—	—	116	149	231.3	36	42	21.3	152	191	252.6
2nd quarter	68	83	118.1	—	—	—	68	83	118.1	37	45	11.7	105	128	129.8
3rd quarter	64	73	59.0	1	1	7.5	65	74	66.5	25	27	9.0	90	101	75.5
4th quarter	59	62	43.7	—	—	—	59	62	43.7	22	23	7.3	81	85	51.0

† A merger (which takes place when two companies combine to form a new company) is reckoned as the acquisition of the smaller company by the larger and is valued at the market value of the smaller company's share of the newly formed company.

TABLE 2 Size distribution of acquisitions within the United Kingdom

	1973		1974		1974 Q1		1974 Q2		1974 Q3		1974 Q4	
Expenditure (£ million)	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.
Over 25	7	281.2	3	151.1	2	117.5	1	33.6	—	—	—	—
Over 5 and up to 25	50	471.7	16	142.5	4	43.6	7	59.0	3	22.3	2	17.6
Over 2 and up to 5	57	171.1	26	80.1	12	37.2	2	4.9	8	25.8	4	12.2
2 or less	1,091	380.3	460	135.2	173	54.3	118	32.3	90	27.4	79	21.2
Total	1,205	1,304.3	505	508.9	191	252.6	128	129.8	101	75.5	85	51.0

TABLE 3 Categories of expenditure on acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Expenditure (£ million)				Percentage of expenditure		
	Total	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities
1969	1,069	296	552	221	27.7	51.6	20.7
1970	1,122	251	596	275	22.4	53.1	24.5
1971	911	285	437	189	31.3	48.0	20.7
1972	2,532	493	1,459	580	19.5	57.6	22.9
1973	1,304	691	466	147	53.0	35.7	11.3
1974	509	384	114	47	68.4	22.4	9.2
1973 1st quarter	323.7	120.7	157.4	45.6	37.3	48.6	14.1
2nd quarter	205.6	90.1	92.0	23.5	43.8	44.8	11.4
3rd quarter	431.7	310.5	100.5	20.7	72.0	23.2	4.8
4th quarter	343.3	169.4	116.4	57.5	49.3	33.9	16.8
1974 1st quarter	252.6	189.8	51.0	11.8	75.1	20.2	4.7
2nd quarter	129.8	68.9	27.3	33.6	53.1	21.0	25.9
3rd quarter	75.5	42.3	32.6	0.6	56.1	43.1	0.8
4th quarter	51.0	46.7	3.3	1.0	91.5	6.5	2.0

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Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme, enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

G. J. A. Link, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

K. I. Humphrey, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

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H. Watson, Prudential Building, 59 St. Andrews Street, Cambridge CB2 3HA. Tel. 0223 67736. Telex 81624.

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F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

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Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Engineering industries sales and orders (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX)

The provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of engineering sales and orders up to November 1974 are published in the accompanying table. The volume of total sales has levelled off in recent months, with export sales now steady, after strong growth earlier this year and home sales tending to ease back. Total new orders have declined further, causing orders-on-hand to fall back a little.

The trend of total sales shows a small decline of ½ per cent over the three months August to November. This reflects a 1½ per cent fall in home sales, which was partly offset by a modest rise in export sales, which increased by only 1 per cent. The volume of export sales however was 14½ per cent higher in November than one year earlier, while home sales were 4½ per cent below the corresponding period in 1973.

The trend of net new orders declined further in the three months up to last November, with the total showing a fall of 5 per cent from the level in August. A similar rate of decrease was evident for both home and export new orders. The fall in the latter was much less pronounced than in earlier months but the inflow of new export contracts remained well below the level of sales. With home new orders also lower than sales, total order books have shortened by 2½ per cent. Orders-on-hand for both home and export markets have tended to decrease, by 2 and 3 per cent respectively, in the period August to November.

Index numbers for the combined engineering industries (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX) (a)

Volume index numbers:	Orders-on-hand. December 1970 unadjusted = 100			Net new orders and sales, 1970 average monthly sales = 100					
	Total			Home			Export		
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New net orders	Sales
Trend estimates									
1973 April	109	131	112	114	136	117	99	120	101
May	112	133	113	117	137	117	101	124	102
June	115	136	113	120	139	118	105	128	102
July	118	138	114	123	140	118	108	134	103
August	121	140	114	125	141	119	112	139	103
September	124	141	114	128	140	118	117	142	103
October	128	139	113	131	137	117	122	144	103
November	131	135	112	133	131	116	126	144	103
December	133	130	111	134	124	114	131	143	103
1974 January	135	124	110	135	117	112	135	142	104
February	136	120	109	135	112	111	140	141	105
March	137	117	109	135	108	110	143	139	107
April	138	115	110	134	107	111	146	135	110
May	138	113	112	133	107	111	148	128	112
June	138	112	113	133	108	112	149	120	115
July	137	109	114	132	108	113	148	112	116
August	136	107	114	131	107	113	147	106	117
September	135	105	114	130	105	112	145	103	118
October	134	103	114	129	104	112	144	101	118
November	133	102	113	129	102	111	142	101	118
Percentage change (b) August-November 1974	−2.5	−5.0	−0.5	−2.0	−5.0	−1.5	−3.0	−5.0	1.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1969	101	100	97	102	99	99	100	102	91
1970	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
1971	93	97	101	95	98	101	89	93	102
1972	99	103	101	103	108	105	90	91	92
1973	133	134	113	134	136	117	130	130	102
1973 3rd quarter	125	142	114	128	143	118	117	139	104
4th quarter	133	135	113	134	132	117	130	143	103
1974 1st quarter	136	117	109	133	108	111	143	139	104
2nd quarter	140	119	111	134	113	110	150	133	113
3rd quarter	135	104	115	131	107	114	143	98	117
1973 July	118	144	115	123	150	120	108	132	105
August	121	135	114	125	133	117	112	139	104
September	125	146	112	128	146	117	117	145	102
October	127	131	114	130	130	119	121	135	102
November	131	147	116	133	142	121	127	157	104
December	133	126	109	134	122	112	130	136	104
1974 January	136	125	104	136	118	107	136	143	98
February	136	115	110	135	107	111	139	133	108
March	136	111	112	133	100	115	143	140	106
April	138	120	110	133	110	108	147	145	114
May	139	115	108	134	111	108	149	125	108
June	140	121	114	134	118	114	150	127	116
July	137	98	116	131	94	117	149	108	115
August	136	105	115	130	106	112	147	101	123
September	135	109	113	131	119	112	143	86	115
October	134	103	113	129	97	111	143	119	119
November	132	100	112	128	99	110	142	104	115
June-August 1974 (av.)	136	108	115	130	106	114	147	112	118
Sept.-November 1974 (av.)	132	104	113	128	105	111	142	103	116
Percentage change (b)	−2.5	−3.5	−2.0	−2.0	−1.0	−2.5	−3.5	−8.5	−1.0

(a) All figures are provisional.
(b) For orders on hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point.

Customs notices of interest to exporters

The following Public Notices issued by HM Customs and Excise relate to various aspects of export procedure. Copies of these Notices may be obtained from the local Officer of Customs and Excise, whose address appears in the telephone directory and to whom all inquiries should be addressed, or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

7	Drawback on mixed or blended beers when exported or deposited in bonded warehouse.
17 (Mav 1973)	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations: international co-operation.
104	Temporary importations and exportations under ATA and ECS Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
118	Samples imported for promoting export trade.
132A	Sugar: cessation of Import Duties and Imposition of Levies under the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC and the Sugar Board Charge.
172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of duty.
207	Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.
210	Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.
221	Process Inwards Relief and Pre-financing of export refunds on products for process.
221A	Section 7 relief: changes in procedure.
223	Export relief on goods exported in the same state as at import ('Same state section 7 relief').
224	The examination of bottled beer, exported on drawback, at the premises of a licensed brewer for sale, or beer dealer, as an alternative to examination on the quay.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory, Levy and Addendum thereto.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
290	Export of personal and household effects.
291	Claims for drawback on goods exported where there has been a variation in the duty rate.
300	Export reliefs scheduling scheme.
703	VAT – Exports. (Revised November 1973)
704	VAT – Retail Export Schemes. (Revised November 1973)
705	VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.
750	Community transit – general.
750A	Community transit – list of Offices of Departure, Transit and Destination and Guarantee Offices in the United Kingdom, etc.
750B	Extension of the Community Transit procedures to Austria and Switzerland.
751	Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.
752	Free circulation of goods in the European Communities.
753	Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.
754	Documentation for fish caught by British fishing vessels.
755	Community transit – special control procedures.
756	Instructions on the use of loading lists as descriptive parts of forms T1, T2 or T3.
774	Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.
800	EEC Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds and export licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreement between the EEC and EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
812, 812A	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
817 (June 1973)	EEC Preferences – Tunisia.
818 (June 1973)	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819 (May 1973)	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Inquiry relating to November 1974. The response rate of 81 per cent to the inquiry for November is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for August, September and October response rates for these months were 91, 93 and 84 per cent respectively.

Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders) is obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £1.40 per annum. Volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for each of the three SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX (mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering respectively).

Regional selective assistance

The table below shows, on a regional basis, the applications received, and offers made, under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 for the month indicated:

DECEMBER 1974

Assisted area	Applications received	No.	Offers made value (£'000)
Scotland	6	15	5,778
Wales	17	7	401
Northern	21	8	251
North West	12	19	5,050
Yorks/Humberside	13	22	1,678
East Midlands	3	3	12
West Midlands	—	—	—
South West	8	1	10
Total	80	75	13,180

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MENDOZA
39 Crawford Street, Baker Street, London W1H 2BS 01-935 8341

Turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1974

Total turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1974 was 20 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1973. In the year 1974 as a whole the increase in total turnover, compared with 1973, was 8 per cent.

New vehicle sales in the fourth quarter of 1974 were 8 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1973, but some of this increase may reflect increased transactions between dealers. Used vehicle sales in the fourth quarter were 17 per cent more than a year earlier. On the same comparison other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol, oil, tyres, spares and accessories, and receipts for servicing and repairs) rose by 29 per cent, reflecting price and tax increases during the year.

Notes

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rate of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The figures are *not* seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover, obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to all motor traders, in a 'base year'. It is expected that more detailed quarterly statistics will be compiled when results from the comprehensive inquiry for 1972, which is being processed by the Business Statistics Office, become available.

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage change compared with a year earlier in brackets 1967 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1967 (£ million)	(£4,234m)	(£1,510m)	(£766m)	(£1,958m)
1967	100	100	100	100
1968	109 (+ 9)	109 (+ 9)	105 (+ 5)	110 (+10)
1969	112 (+ 2)	105 (− 4)	102 (− 3)	120 (+ 9)
1970	126 (+13)	122 (+16)	117 (+14)	132 (+10)
1971	149 (+19)	158 (+29)	142 (+22)	146 (+11)
1972	173 (+16)	196 (+24)	159 (+12)	161 (+10)
1973	192 (+11)	216 (+10)	164 (+ 3)	184 (+14)
1974	207 (+ 8)	208 (− 4)	158 (− 4)	225 (+22)
1968 1st qtr.	120 (+23)	139 (+37)	121 (+28)	104 (+10)
2nd qtr.	109 (+ 3)	102 (− 7)	108 (− 1)	114 (+13)
3rd qtr.	106 (+ 5)	96 (+ 2)	103 (− 3)	114 (+10)
4th qtr.	103 (+ 6)	100 (+ 6)	88 (− 2)	110 (+10)
1969 1st qtr.	111 (− 7)	113 (−19)	104 (−13)	112 (+ 8)
2nd qtr.	121 (+11)	119 (+17)	115 (+ 6)	124 (+ 9)
3rd qtr.	112 (+ 6)	101 (+ 6)	101 (− 3)	124 (+ 9)
4th qtr.	102 (− 1)	88 (−12)	89 (+ 1)	119 (+ 8)
1970 1st qtr.	124 (+11)	128 (+14)	115 (+11)	123 (+10)
2nd qtr.	133 (+10)	133 (+11)	126 (+ 9)	135 (+ 9)
3rd qtr.	126 (+12)	117 (+16)	116 (+16)	136 (+ 9)
4th qtr.	121 (+18)	111 (+26)	109 (+22)	134 (+13)
1971 1st qtr.	142 (+15)	155 (+21)	134 (+16)	136 (+10)
2nd qtr.	152 (+15)	160 (+21)	148 (+18)	147 (+ 9)
3rd qtr.	157 (+25)	164 (+40)	153 (+31)	153 (+13)
4th qtr.	146 (+21)	152 (+36)	133 (+22)	147 (+10)
1972 1st qtr.	166 (+17)	190 (+23)	158 (+18)	151 (+11)
2nd qtr.	182 (+20)	213 (+33)	169 (+14)	162 (+10)
3rd qtr.	176 (+12)	194 (+18)	161 (+ 5)	168 (+10)
4th qtr.	170 (+16)	187 (+23)	149 (+12)	165 (+12)
1973 1st qtr.	204 (+23)	251 (+32)	187 (+19)	175 (+16)
2nd qtr.	193 (+ 6)	220 (+ 3)	168 (− 1)	182 (+12)
3rd qtr.	195 (+11)	215 (+11)	170 (+ 6)	189 (+12)
4th qtr.	175 (+ 3)	177 (− 6)	132 (−11)	190 (+15)
1974 1st qtr.	186 (− 9)	203 (−19)	135 (−28)	194 (+11)
2nd qtr.	215 (+11)	229 (+ 4)	172 (+ 2)	221 (+22)
3rd qtr.	216 (+11)	209 (− 3)	171 (−)	240 (+27)
4th qtr.	209 (+20)	191 (+ 8)	155 (+17)	244 (+29)

Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: A. T. Cheek

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: D. A. Thorne; J. Tye

Companies Winding-up
Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD (Tel: 01-583 8931)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; D. A. Williams

Birmingham
Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP (Tel: 021-236 8831/7)
A. D. Gwyther; J. F. Hirst

Bournemouth
Burlington Arcade, Bournemouth BH1 2JS (Tel: 0202-28208/9)
A. H. Horler

Bradford
West Riding House, Cheapside, Bradford BD1 4LJ (Tel: 0274-33651/2)
V. Duffy

Brighton
Windsor House (East Entrance), 30-35 Edward Street, Brighton BN2 2JZ (Tel: 0273-290268)
J. F. O'Reilly

Bristol
Sun Alliance House, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BN (Tel: 0272-290268)
D. S. Clackett

Cambridge
49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LT (Tel: 0223-53930 and 59646)
R. F. Savage

Canterbury
Lombard House, 12-17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury (Tel: 0227-62070 and 65037)
A. R. Haigh

Cardiff
3rd Floor, Hayes House, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2UG (Tel: 0222-30575)
B. J. Longley

Chester
Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR (Tel: 0244-21471/2)
K. Matthewson

Croydon
Park House, 22 Park Street, Croydon CR9 1TX (Tel: 01-681 2633)
R. A. D. Copper

Exeter
Eastgate House, High Street, Exeter EX4 3JU (Tel: 0392-55445)
A. J. Seldon

Gloucester
Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1ST (Tel: 0452-21658/9)
H. W. Kirkwood

Hull
Beverley House, St. Stephen's Square, Hull HU1 3XF (Tel: 0482-23720 and 23729)
J. E. Friend

Ipswich
St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX (Tel: 0473-56731)
T. A. Tuck

Leeds
Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5BX (Tel: 0532-28011/2)
W. A. Bishop

Leicester
Prospect House, 94 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DE (Tel: 0533-22251/3)
H. Roach

Liverpool
West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RQ (Tel: 051-236 8397/8)
R. W. F. Pagan

Manchester
Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB (Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

Newcastle upon Tyne
3rd Floor, 4 St. Nicholas Buildings, St. Nicholas Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RF (Tel: 0632-21104/5)
F. Durkin

Northampton
6 Cheyne Walk, Northampton NN1 5QA (Tel: 0604-37288/9)
R. F. Savage

Norwich
Davey House, Castle Meadow, Norwich NOR O2D (Tel: 0603-28983/4)
T. A. Tuck

Nottingham
1 Collin Street, Nottingham NG1 7EP (Tel: 0602-51596/8)
W. W. Jordan

Plymouth
63 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RD (Tel: 0752-68554)
A. J. Seldon

Reading
PO Box No. 40, Somerset House, 3 Blagrave Street, Reading RG1 1QE (Tel: 0734-581931/5)
R. G. Gooddard

Rochester
Gordon House, Star Hill, Rochester (Tel: 0634-42603 and 46906)
A. R. Haigh

St. Annes
Petros House, St. Andrews Road North, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JD (Tel: 0253-721271)
M. Clark

Sheffield
8/12 Furnival Gate, The Moor, Sheffield S1 4QN (Tel: 0742-26691/3)
T. Wilks

Southampton
21 London Road, Southampton SO9 1NQ (Tel: 0703-23348/9 and 23340)
A. H. Horler

Southend
2nd Floor, Colman House, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6EF (Tel: 0702-41316/7)
F. L. Sage

Stockton
4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3BP (Tel: 0642-65598/9)
F. Durkin

Stoke
London House, Hide Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1QN (Tel: 0782-45256/8)
A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 Helens Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-42861)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ (Tel. 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

Steel consumption and stocks in the fourth quarter of 1974

Consumption

Seasonally adjusted consumption of steel in 1974 was roughly equal to deliveries in each quarter except the first when deliveries were estimated to be 4.9 million tonnes and consumption 4.4 million, the difference being placed to stock. Consumption in 1974 was 17.6 million, some 0.8 million (4 per cent) less than the 1973 record level of 18.4 million tonnes. Consumption during the fourth quarter was 4.4 million, the equal to the average quarterly consumption for the year.

Deliveries

Some 15.0 million tonnes of steel were estimated to be delivered to UK consumers and merchants by UK producers in 1974, with 3.6 million tonnes being delivered in the fourth quarter. Deliveries to consumers from imports in 1974 were 3.4 million with 0.8 million in the fourth quarter. Total deliveries to consumers in 1974 were 18.1 million tonnes, some 1.3 million (6 per cent) less than the record level of deliveries in 1973, while deliveries in the fourth quarter were 4.4 million.

Stocks

After an estimated increase of 0.6 million tonnes in the first quarter of 1974, consumer's stocks of steel remained at their record level of some 5.0 million tonnes for the remainder of this year. The end-1974 level was some 1.6 million (45 per cent) higher than the end-1972 level. Stocks held by stockholding merchants increased throughout 1974 from 0.6 million to 0.8 million. Total stocks of steel at end-1974 are provisionally estimated to be slightly over 5.8 million, a new record high, and estimated to be equal to 17 weeks consumption, some five weeks more than the end-1972 level. In view of the substantial costs of holding this very high level of steel stocks part of the demand for steel for consumption may be met from stocks in 1975, causing demand for deliveries to fall.

TABLE 1 Consumption, deliveries and stocks of finished steel

Seasonally adjusted

		Deliveries			Stocks					
					Levels			Number of weeks supply		
	Consumption m. tonnes	From UK production to consumers and merchants m. tonnes	Imports m. tonnes	Total to consumers (a) m. tonnes	Consumers m. tonnes	Merchants m. tonnes	Total m. tonnes	Consumers	Merchants	Total
1968	16.8	15.3	1 6	16.9	3.3	0.6	3.9	9.6	1.7	11.3
1969	17.7	17.1	1.2	18.2	3.8	0.6	4.4	10.8	1.9	12.7
1970	17.6	17.2	1.0	18.0	4.1	0.9	5.0	11.9	2.8	14.7
1971	16.7	14.4	1.4	16.0	3.5	0.7	4.2	11.5	2.3	13.8
1972	16.7	14.6	2.1	16.7	3.4	0.7	4.1	9.6	2.0	11.6
1973	18.4	16.8	2.5	19.4	4.4	0.6	5.0	12.6	2.4	15.0
1974 (p)	17 6	15 0	3.4	18.1	5.0	0.8	5.8	14.5	2.5	17.0
1972 1st quarter	3.9	3.4	0 5	3.9	3.4	0.7	4.1	11.0	2.4	13.4
2nd quarter	4.0	3.4	0.5	3.9	3.3	0.7	4.0	9.9	2.3	12.2
3rd quarter	4.3	3.8	0.5	4.3	3.3	0.7	4.0	9.6	2.1	11.7
4th quarter	4.5	4.0	0.6	4.6	3.4	0.7	4.1	9.6	2.0	11.6
1973 1st quarter	4.6	4.2	0.7	4.8	3.6	0.7	4.3	10.6	2.2	12.8
2nd quarter	4.4	4.1	0.4	4.6	3.8	0.7	4.5	10.8	1.9	12.7
3rd quarter	4.6	4.2	0.6	4.9	4.1	0.6	4.7	11.1	1.8	12.9
4th quarter	4.8	4.3	0.8	5.1	4.4	0.6	5.0	12.6	2.4	15.0
1974 1st quarter	4.4	4.0	1.0	4.9	5.0	0.6	5.6	14.1	1.8	15.9
2nd quarter	4.6	3.9	0.9	4.6	5.0	0.8	5.8	15.4	2 3	17.7
3rd quarter	4.2	3.5	0.7	4.2	5.0	0.8	5.8	14.5	2.4	16.9
4th quarter (p)	4.4	3.6	0.8	4.4	5.0	0.8	5.8	14.5	2.5	17.0

(a) Total deliveries to consumers are deliveries from UK production to consumers and stockholding merchants plus imports minus stock build by stockholding merchants.
(p) Provisional.
Note: Estimates of weeks supply are given by stocks held divided by the consumption level of the following quarter, with the exception of 1974 4th quarter when the divisor used is consumption in that quarter.

TABLE 2 Percentage change over previous period in consumption, deliveries and stocks of finished steel

Seasonally adjusted

		Deliveries			Stocks		
					Levels		
	Consumption	From UK production to consumers and merchants	Imports	Total to consumers (a)	Consumers	Merchants	Total
1968	7	7	17	8	4	1	4
1969	5	11	−24	8	15	6	13
1970	− 1	1	−12	− 1	10	37	14
1971	− 5	−16	36	−11	−16	−18	−16
1972	0	1	52	4	− 1	2	− 1
1973	10	15	17	16	29	−20	22
1974 (p)	− 4	−11	35	− 7	12	47	16
1972 1st quarter	− 1	7	6	5	− 1	1	− 1
2nd quarter	− 3	0	− 3	0	− 5	2	− 2
3rd quarter	6	10	15	11	1	− 1	0
4th quarter	5	5	23	7	4	− 1	2
1973 1st quarter	4	5	− 1	4	4	0	5
2nd quarter	− 6	− 1	−32	− 4	7	− 6	4
3rd quarter	5	3	38	6	8	− 6	4
4th quarter	5	–	33	5	8	−10	6
1974 1st quarter	− 9	− 7	21	− 3	12	6	12
2nd quarter	5	− 1	−13	− 5	1	22	4
3rd quarter	− 7	−10	−15	−10	− 1	5	0
4th quarter (p)	4	4	17	7	0	5	2

(a) Total deliveries to consumers are deliveries from UK production to consumers and stockholding merchants plus imports minus stock building by stockholding merchants.
(p) Provisional.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1914 and 1926

The number of Receiving Orders and Administration Orders in Bankruptcy (deceased debtors' estates), made in the High Court and in the several County Courts having bankruptcy jurisdiction in England and Wales, in the quarter ended 31 December 1974, and also the total number of Deeds of Arrangement registered during the same period, together with the corresponding figures for the previous four quarters are as follows:

Receiving Orders and Administration Orders	4th qtr. 1974	3rd qtr. 1974	2nd qtr. 1974	1st qtr. 1974	4th qtr. 1973
High Court	442	227	297	363	319
Country Courts	1,201	1,128	1,017	931	731
Total	1,643	1,355	1,314	1,294	1,050

Deeds of Arrangement	4th qtr. 1974	3rd qtr. 1974	2nd qtr. 1974	1st qtr. 1974	4th qtr. 1973
Total number registered	35	22	27	26	21

Information regarding the quarter ended 31 December 1974 was published in greater detail, with an analysis of the bankruptcies in the respective Courts, in the *London Gazette*, dated 28 January 1975.

Business Monitor

The following titles and issues of Business Monitor are now available:

Production series

Monthly at £1.40 each a year post free:

PM 332 Metal working machine tools for October 1974
PM 381 Cars and commercial vehicle production for December 1974
PM 471.1 Wood chipboard for December 1974
PM 476 Imported timber for December 1974

Quarterly at 52p each a year post free:

PQ 212 Bread and flour confectionery for third quarter 1974
PQ 334 Industrial engines for third quarter 1974
PQ 337 Mechanical handling equipment for third quarter 1974
PQ 341.1 Industrial (including process) plant and steelwork for third quarter 1974
PQ 349.2 Precision chains and other mechanical engineering products for third quarter 1974
PQ 365.1 Gramophone records and tape recordings for third quarter 1974

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901, Thomas More Building, Royal Court of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

PQ 474 Shop and office fittings for third quarter 1974

Annual

Publication has now commenced in the Business Monitor series, for the Annual Census of Production, 1972. The following table lists the Business Monitors which have been published to date.

1972 Report on the Census of Production (price including postage shown in brackets)

PA 1001 Introductory Notes (49p)
PA 101 Coal Mining (31p)

1973 Report on the Census of Production (price including postage shown in brackets)

PA 1000 Provisional results 1973 (78p)

Service and distributive series

Monthly at 84p a year post free:

SD 5 Catering trades for December 1974

Business Monitors in the Production, Service and Distributive and Miscellaneous series are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. The Census of Production reports are available on standing order from the same address or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Exceptionally copies can be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Department's Central Library, which will supply prices on request (tel. 01-215 3038) or the Department's Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent, NPT 1XG (tel. 0633-56111, ext. 2973, telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of titles of Business Monitors is available on application.

Inquiries about the distribution of Business Monitors may be made to the Business Statistics Office (ext. 2700) whose address and telephone number appear above.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday 14 February 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Review No. 5 (28th Year)	BR/E 37937/16/2/80	10	11 February	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
All Creatures Great and Small	BR/E 37938/16/2/80	92	11 February	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Venedon Ltd.
Bedtime With Rosie	BR/E 37941/16/2/80	76	13 February	Ivor Burgoyne	Film Producers and Distributors Ltd.
Movietone News 2384	BR/E 37814/16/2/80	8	14 February	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Forty Graves For Forty Guns	F 37934	81	10 February	Carnaby Film Distributors	Box Office International Film Distributors, California
They Call Him Marcado	F 37935	82	11 February	Carnaby Film Distributors	Producciones Aguila SA, Mexico
Beautiful People	F 37936	93	11 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Mimosa Films Ltd., London
More Sexy Canterbury Tales	F 37939	84	12 February	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd.	Transglobe Italiana, Rome
The Peking Man	F 37940	78	13 February	Nationwide Film Distributors Ltd.	Hwa Kuo Movie Studio Co. Ltd., Taiwan

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	30 May 1974
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	24 Oct. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	This week
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	9 Jan. 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	16 Jan. 1975
Census of production	19 Dec. 1974 (see also 16 Jan. 1975)
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	6 Feb. 1975
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	This week
Liquidity	12 Dec. 1974
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	23 Jan. 1975
N. Ireland (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1974
Energy trends (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	This week
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	13 Feb. 1975
cinema admissions and takings (M)	6 Feb. 1975
overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
registrations of films (A)	6 Feb. 1975
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	5 Sept. 1974
household consumption (Q)	16 Jan. 1975
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Hire-purchase business (M)	6 Feb. 1975
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
N. Ireland index (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Wales index (Q)	11 Apr. 1974
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	30 Jan. 1975
investment and earnings overseas (A)	13 June 1974
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	28 Nov. 1974
production (M)	13 Feb. 1975
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	28 Nov. 1974
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	30 Jan. 1975
estimated figures (M)	13 Feb. 1975
motor trade turnover (Q)	This week
Office development permits (Q)	31 Oct. 1974
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	27 June 1974
UK overseas trade in 1973	16 May 1974
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	This week
value: analysis of trends (Q)	23 Jan. 1975
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Paper and board production (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Regional selective assistance (M)	This week
Retail prices index (M)	This week
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	6 Feb. 1975
provisional figures (M)	This week
sales, N. Ireland (M)	This week
stocks (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	27 June 1974
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	This week
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	9 Jan. 1975
retail (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	21 Nov. 1974
carpet sales (M)	30 Jan. 1975
cotton industry production (M)	This week
hosiery production (M)	30 Jan. 1975
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	This week
orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	30 Jan. 1975
wool exports (Q)	12 Dec. 1974
wool output (M)	13 Feb. 1975
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	13 Feb. 1975
international passenger survey (A)	9 Jan. 1975
overseas travel and tourism (A)	21 Feb. 1974
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	4 Apr. 1974
index numbers (M)	This week

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	2 Jan. 1975
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	This week
Guide to Departments	5 Dec. 1974
Official Receivers' offices	This week
Programme of trade promotions	16 Jan. 1975
Release dates of economic statistics	30 Jan. 1975

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26 February 1975 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle

Auctioneers: Harrison & Hetherington Ltd. (Dept. L), Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2RS (Tel. 0228 26292)

The lots which are lying at Carlisle and other locations include Land Rovers, saloon cars, vans, ambulances, etc., machine and hand tools, oscillators, amplifiers, power units and other electrical and electronic items, watches, binoculars, micrometers, verniers, air mileage units and other instruments, office furniture, aerial systems, hose assemblies, telephone, teleprinter and photographic equipment, textiles, clothing, boots and shoes, paint, tyres, and other miscellaneous stores.

5 March 1975 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Dining Hall, Cavalry Barracks, off Butt Road, Colchester

Auctioneers: Fenn Wright Garrod Turner (Dept. L), 146 High Street, Colchester, Essex (Tel. 0206 46161)

The lots on offer include a mobile crane, Ford estate car, welding plant, engineers tools, lifting gear, metal detectors, microscopes, pallet transporter, fork lift truck, radio parts, MT and electrical spares, tyres, charging sets, miscellaneous clothing, bedding, mixed rags and canvas. Batteries, crockery, household and office furniture. Scrap ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

Catalogues for the above sales, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

Department of the Environment

4 March 1975

Location: Department of the Environment, Supplies Division stores, India Pavilion, Exhibition Grounds, Wembley, Middlesex (tel. 01-903 2508 or 01-902 4482)

Auctioneers: Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell, 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (Tel. 01-248 7954)

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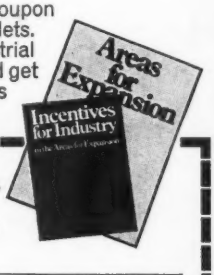

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